

PRESS ADVISORY

OSCE PA, ODIHR to lead Observation of Parliamentary Elections in Georgia

COPENHAGEN, 12 February 2004 – The OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Bulgarian Foreign Minister Solomon Passy, has appointed OSCE PA President Bruce George as his Special Co-ordinator to lead the Short-Term OSCE Observation Mission for the upcoming parliamentary elections in Georgia on 28 March 2004.

The OSCE Election Observation Mission is a joint effort between the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE. The ODIHR deploys long term observers in the field several weeks before election day, as well as short-term observers seconded by OSCE participating States and provides the framework for the deployment of the short-term parliamentary observers. The OSCE PA also works in close co-operation with the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly and the European Parliament.

On 29 March, President George will deliver the preliminary post-election statement in conjunction with other appropriate officials, including the Council of Europe PA, the European Parliament and the ODIHR.

The OSCE Observation Mission will assess the conduct of the elections, the political campaign and the role of the media.

For further information, representatives of the media are kindly requested to contact OSCE PA Counsellor Jan R.M. Jooren at the International Secretariat in Copenhagen, Tel +45 33 37 80 40, Fax +45 33 37 80 30, e-mail: jan@oscepa.dk, Mobile: + 45 40 41 16 41

The Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE, created by the CSCE Summit in Paris in 1990, is the parliamentary dimension of the 55-nation Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. The primary task of the 317 member Assembly is to facilitate interparliamentary dialogue, an important aspect of the overall effort to meet the challenges of democracy throughout the OSCE area.