

## PA Fall Meetings in Malta: 17 to 20 November 2006

Deputy Secretary General Vitaly Evseyev and Presidential Adviser Gustavo Pallarés traveled to Malta from 8 to 10 May in order to begin preparations for the OSCE PA 2006 Fall Meetings. The Assembly's 2006 Fall Meetings will be held in Malta from Friday 17 November to Sunday 19 November. The Maltese Parliament plans to organize an excursion for all participants on Monday 20 November.

The representatives of the Assembly's Secretariat were welcomed by the Speaker of the Maltese Parliament, Anton Tabone, and met with the Members

of the Maltese Delegation to the OSCE PA, Jason Azzopardi, Head of Delegation, and Angelo Farrugia and Frederick Azzopardi. During their stay in Malta the Members of the Secretariat also held meetings with the staff of the Parliament that will be responsible for the organization of the meetings.

The Fall Meetings include a parliamentary conference, a meeting of the Standing Committee and the OSCE PA Mediterranean Forum. Detailed information regarding themes and logistics will be forwarded to all delegations after the Annual Session.

## Morten Høglund participates in seminar on representation of Muslims in Public Discourse

On 9 and 10 May, the Head of the Norwegian Delegation to the OSCE PA, Morten Høglund, visited Warsaw, to represent the Parliamentary Assembly at two Seminars organized by the OSCE-ODIHR. Mr. Høglund moderated a session of the May 9 roundtable seminar on 'Representation of Muslims in Public Discourse', which was organized jointly with Ambassador Ömur Orhun, Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims. The meeting brought together experts in the field of inter-faith relations and representatives of Muslim communities to consider and discuss the portrayal of Muslims in the media and political and academic discourse. Mr. Høglund introduced the work of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in this field, and particularly highlighted the Special Debate on freedom of expression and respect for religious beliefs, held during the Winter Meeting in February 2006.

Mr. Høglund also participated in the OSCE-ODIHR's Human Dimension Seminar, which focused on 'Upholding the Rule of Law and Due Process in Criminal Justice Systems'. Mr. Høglund was accompanied by Programme Officer Andreas Baker from the International Secretariat.



## Göran Lennmarker visits Azerbaijan



On 5-6 May, Göran Lennmarker, Special Representative on the Nagorno Karabakh Conflict, visited Azerbaijan in order to discuss the Nagorno Karabakh conflict. Mr. Lennmarker met with the President of Azerbaijan, the Speaker of Parliament, the Foreign Minister as well as the Azerbaijani Delegation to the OSCE PA. In his meetings, Mr. Lennmarker stressed that there now is an important window of opportunity to find a peaceful solution to the conflict over Nagorno Karabakh and expressed his optimism about the situation.