

PA Autumn Meetings opened in Malta



On 17 November 2006 President Göran Lennmarker opened the 2006 OSCE PA Autumn Meetings, welcoming participants to Malta and to the Conference on 'Immigration, Integration and Cross-Cultural Dialogue: the Roles of the OSCE'. In his opening remarks, he encouraged a full and open discussion of the issues related to migration. Lennmarker particularly called on Members to consider the positive aspects of migration, and

not to focus solely on the problems related to the phenomenon.

The opening session of the conference was addressed by the Speaker of the Maltese House of Representatives, Anton Tabone. Mr. Tabone welcomed participants to Malta, whose strategic position at the heart of the Mediterranean makes it an excellent meeting place for dialogue between cultures and civilizations, he said. The Speaker also drew Members' attention to the threat posed by illegal immigration and trafficking in human beings.

The Head of the Delegation of Malta to the OSCE PA, Jason Azzopardi, welcomed Members to the Autumn Meetings, and noted the very high participation by participants from across the OSCE and beyond, including special guest representatives from Libya. He discussed the central role that Malta is playing in bringing together representatives from around the Mediterranean in such co-operation efforts.

The Autumn Meetings, which also include a meeting of the Assembly's Standing Committee of Heads of Delegations and a Mediterranean Forum bring together more than 250 participants from 51 countries.

Lenmarker holds meetings in Vienna

On 14 and 15 November, PA President Göran Lennmarker visited a number of OSCE offices in Vienna, in conjunction with his address to the Permanent Council of the OSCE.

The President met with Barbara Prammer, Speaker of the Austrian Nationalrat, and particularly discussed the problem of xenophobia in the OSCE region. Mrs. Prammer extended an invitation to a reception being hosted by the Austrian Parliament during the OSCE PA Winter Meeting in February 2007.

Lennmarker also met with the Chairman of the Permanent Council, Ambassador Bertrand de Crombrughe of Belgium, and discussed work being conducted in preparation for the upcoming Ministerial Council in early December, as well as OSCE election observation projects.

Miklos Haraszti, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, briefed the President on the work of the Representative's office. In particular, the Representative focused on his efforts in a number of OSCE participating States to decriminalize libel.

In a meeting with the Secretary General of the OSCE, Ambassador Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, the President discussed the budgetary process in the OSCE, staffing issues, and OSCE election monitoring activities.

In addition, the President met with Ambassador Herbert Salber, Head of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre. Ambassador Salber informed the President about work being done by a number of OSCE field missions, and discussed the prospects for greater contributions by OSCE parliamentarians in this field work. In particular, there was discussion of work being undertaken by the OSCE in Central Asia, and Assembly work here.

President Lennmarker also met with the three Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group, and Ambassador Andrzej Kasprzyk, the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office on the conflict dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference, and discussed their work on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

President Lennmarker was accompanied by Secretary General Spencer Oliver, Deputy Secretary General Tina Schøn, and Ambassador Andreas Nothelle from the International Secretariat, and Åsa Ekwall, Advisor from the Swedish Parliament.

