

President Lennmarker visits South East Europe



President Lennmarker meeting with Predrag Markovic, Speaker of the Serbian Parliament

During the second week of December, OSCE PA President Göran Lennmarker (MP Sweden) paid a one-week visit to Serbia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Albania. The President, together with OSCE PA Special Representative on South East Europe Roberto Battelli (MP Slovenia), travelled by car from Belgrade to Mitrovica, Pristina, Gracanica, Skopje, Tetovo, Ohrid, and finally Tirana, to get first-hand impressions of the region. The President and Mr. Battelli were accompanied by Ambassador Andreas Nothelle from the PA's Vienna Liaison Office and Senior Advisor Asa Ekwall.

President Lennmarker met with – among others – the Presidents of the Parliaments of the three countries, Predrag Marković, Ljubisa Georgievski, and Jozefina Topalli, with the Prime Minister of Albania Prof. Dr. Sali Berisha, Deputy Prime Ministers and Foreign Ministers as well as with their delegations to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. The program also included representatives from all sectors of Civil Society and the delegation was thoroughly informed about the work of the four

OSCE missions as well as several of their field offices.

The visit to Serbia also served as a first preliminary assessment mission for the January 21, 2007 Parliamentary Elections in Serbia. President Lennmarker will lead the OSCE PA Delegation for the Election Observation. The programme of the visit included a meeting with the Chairman of the Republican Electoral Commission Mr. Mihajlo Rulič, as well as a number of talks with high-level party representatives.

In Kosovo, the delegation had a close look at the situation in Serbian enclaves, received a comprehensive briefing at the Kosovo Police Service School and visited the Multinational Task Force Center C of KFOR. A highlight of the visit to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was the South East European University in Tetovo. In Albania, the delegation heard opinions from all sides of the political spectrum on the contentious issues relating to the upcoming Local Elections, and it received comprehensive information by several youth organizations about the situation of the young people in the country.

Head of Andorran Delegation Represents the OSCE PA at Parliamentary Conference of the WTO



The Head of the Andorran Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Mr. Josep Dallerès, represented the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly at the 2006 Annual Session of the Parliamentary Conference on the World Trade Organization, which took place in Geneva on 1 and 2 December 2006.

The Conference was a joint undertaking of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the European Parliament. Its principal objective was to enhance external transparency of the WTO and make this the Organization accountable to legislators.

As on past occasions, the 2006 Session was intended primarily for parliamentarians who specialize in matters of international trade in their respective parliaments. The session provided the OSCE PA Delegation the opportunity to obtain first-hand information on recent developments in WTO talks and general issues related to international trade.

The Parliament of Andorra will be hosting the next OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Economic Conference on "Strengthening Stability and Co-operation through International Trade" in Andorra from 24 to 26 May 2007.

Mr. Dallerès was accompanied in Geneva by Gustavo Pallarés from the OSCE PA International Secretariat, and Arantxa Rodríguez, Secretary of the Andorran Delegation to the PA.