

# News from Copenhagen

## Soares and Lennmarker conclude Caucasus visit



OSCE PA President Emeritus Goran Lennmarker, President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and OSCE PA President Joao Soares



Goran Lennmarker and Joao Soares meet with Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan on 12 March

After visiting Georgia last week, President Joao Soares and President Emeritus Goran Lennmarker continued their visit to the Caucasus in Armenia and Azerbaijan.

In Yerevan and in Baku, President Soares called for the implementation of OSCE commitments by the governments of Armenia and Azerbaijan, especially in the areas of human rights, fundamental freedoms and democracy. He stressed the need for continued reforms in order to ensure democratic elections in the countries. The Delegation also discussed the Nagorno Karabakh conflict and the progress made in the peace process.

Mr. Soares and Mr. Lennmarker stressed that there is no alternative to dialogue for resolving the conflict and that a solution should be found as soon as possible. President Soares also expressed hope that the particular interest shown by the Kazakh OSCE Chairmanship in solving this conflict will help facilitate a settlement.

The Delegation was briefed on the overall situation in the two countries, including the economic situation and the latest democratic reforms. In addition, there were discussions on priorities for the future and foreign relations, in which particular emphasis was placed on the recent process of rapprochement between Armenia and Turkey. The work and priorities of the OSCE in the Caucasus was also discussed, as was the special

role played by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

In both Armenia and Azerbaijan, President Soares and Mr. Lennmarker had meetings with the Presidents, the Speakers of Parliament, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, the OSCE PA Delegations and representatives of civil society and political opposition parties. In addition, the Delegation met with representatives of the two communities from Nagorno Karabakh in Baku and Yerevan respectively. Furthermore, the OSCE Office in Yerevan headed by Ambassador Sergey Kapinos and the OSCE Office in Baku which is headed by Ambassador Bilge Cankorel provided briefings and assisted the Delegation.

In both countries, the Kazakh Ambassador hosted meetings with several Ambassadors from OSCE countries. Also, while in Yerevan, the Delegation participated in the NATO PA Rose-Roth Seminar on "Regional Developments in the South Caucasus; Challenges, Opportunities and Prospects." Mr. Lennmarker made a presentation at this seminar in his capacity as OSCE PA Special Representative on Nagorno Karabakh and Special Envoy to Georgia.

The Delegation included Deputy Secretary General Tina Schoen from the Copenhagen International Secretariat, Liaison Officer Marc Carillet from the Vienna Liaison Office and Nuno Paixao from the Portuguese Parliament.

## Lively debate on OSCE in Danish Parliament

The Danish Parliament, the Folketing, held a thorough debate on the OSCE, on Tuesday 16 March. The debate, held in response to a report produced for Foreign Minister Lene Espersen, included interventions by the Head of the OSCE PA's Danish Delegation, Peter Juel Jensen and OSCE PA Vice-President Pia Christmas-Moeller, as well as representatives of all parties in the parliament.

In response to the report, Members highlighted a number of areas of particular concern, including relations under the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe, as well as trafficking in human beings, migration issues and election observation.

Particular focus was placed on the importance of involving the Parliamentary Assembly in efforts to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the 1990 Copenhagen Document, which spelled out the democratic commitments of all OSCE participating States.

Also, concern was expressed that the report did not fully reflect the current situation to do with ODIHR-PA co-operation on election observation. Foreign Minister Espersen responded to the questions and interventions by Members.

The Session was attended by Presidential Advisor Andreas Baker from the International Secretariat.