

# News from Copenhagen

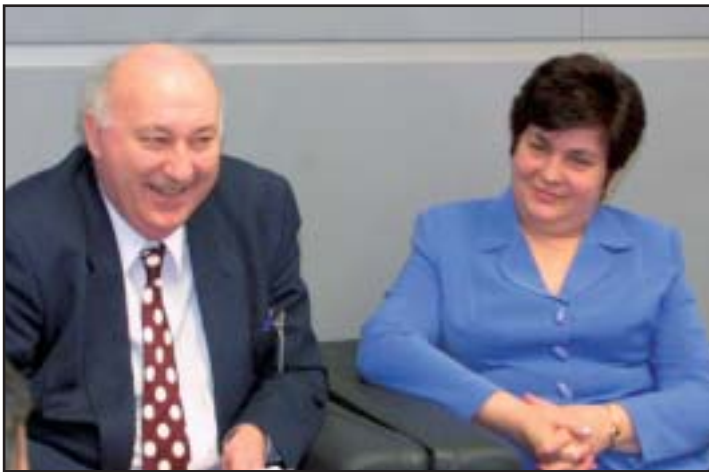
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Current Information from the OSCE PA International Secretariat

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## Busy OSCE PA Spring Schedule

Following the very successful February Winter Meeting in Vienna, the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE enters a busy spring schedule leading up to the Twelfth Annual Session in July. President Bruce George leads the way by paying an official visit to Rome, where he will have high level meetings on 30 March and 1 April. On April 24-25 the Expanded Bureau, including all elected members of the Assembly, will meet in Copenhagen. Members will review the preparations for the upcoming Session in Rotterdam. Draft Reports and Draft Resolutions for the Session, which will focus on "The Role of the OSCE in the New Architecture of Europe", will be discussed. President George will address the OSCE PA Seminar on Federalism in Moldova on 28-29 April. Three working sessions will address "European Models of Federalism", "Moldova as a Partner in an Integrating Europe", and "Towards a Solution". Sessions will take place both in Chisinau and Tiraspol. After an expected official visit to Bulgaria on the invitation of Foreign Minister Solomon Passy, the newest member of the OSCE Ministerial Troika, Mr. George will open the OSCE PA Subregional Conference on Small and Medium Sized Business in Berne from 14-16 May. After Monaco (1997) and Nantes (1999), this is the third conference organized by the OSCE PA in the field of sub-regional economic co-operation. President George will participate in the Spring Session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Prague (25-28 May). The last OSCE PA Conference before the July Annual Session is the Trans-Asian Parliamentary Forum, to be held in Kazakhstan from 7-9 June. The Forum will focus on "The Trans-Asian Dimension of the OSCE: A Vital Security Link". The themes of the Sessions are based on the three main OSCE dimensions, political, economic and environmental, and human rights and democracy issues, and reflect the central goal of the Forum, which is to explore ways in which parliamentarians from OSCE participating states can co-operate to promote positive developments in each of these dimensions, and thus contribute to regional security. Principal speakers at the Conference will be the President of the OSCE PA, and the Speakers of the Senate and Majlis of the Republic of Kazakhstan as well as senior UNDP and OSCE officials. Also on the Spring Schedule is the participation of a OSCE PA delegation in a conference in Tbilisi, organized by the Georgian Parliament on "Women's role in Establishing Peace and Security in the South Caucasus" (22-23 March) and field visits of Parliamentarians to the OSCE Presence in Albania (24-26 March) and the OSCE Spillover Mission to Skopje (7-9 April).



### Bilaterals at Vienna Winter Meeting

During the Winter Meeting the President held bilateral meetings to discuss different activities and action plans of the Assembly. Mr. George met with Mr. Gennady Seleznev, Vice-President of the OSCE PA and Speaker of the Russian Duma, to discuss recent developments in world politics, including the situations in Iraq and Chechnya. President George also met the Speaker of the Moldovan Parliament and President of the PABSEC, Mrs Eugenia Ostupciuc, to discuss the activities of the ad hoc Committee on Moldova, including the upcoming parliamentary seminar on federalism. He met the Speaker of the Kazakh Senate, Mr. Oralbai Abydykarimov, to discuss the Trans Asian Parliamentary Forum. In this context he also met with the Head of the Thai Delegation, Mr. Kobsak Chutikul. He discussed Nagorno Karabakh with delegates from Azerbaijan, led by Mr. Sattar Safarov.

### Bruce George Meets with OSCE Mediterranean Contact Group

The day before the Winter Meeting, President Bruce George addressed the OSCE Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation. He was accompanied by several members of the OSCE PA, including Mr. Voisin (France), Mr. Pacini (Italy), Mr. Posada (Spain), Mr. Kammenos (Greece), Mr. Battelli (Slovenia), Mrs. Theocharous (Cyprus), and Mr. Yalcintas (Turkey). President George briefed the Contact Group about OSCE PA Mediterranean activities, including the Conference in Madrid last October and the Mediterranean Forum to be held in Rome next October. During the Winter Meeting President George also discussed Mediterranean issues with the Parliamentary Delegations from Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, and Tunisia. On Friday 21 February he held a special meeting with the Speaker of the Moroccan Parliament.



Before proposing the debate on Iraq in Vienna, President Bruce George met with Dr. Hans Blix at the UN in NY.