

## Chairman-in-Office appoints João Soares to lead OSCE election observation in Montenegro

Upon the recommendation of President Göran Lenmarker, the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Minister Karel De Gucht, has appointed PA Vice-President João Soares of Portugal as his Special Co-ordinator for the OSCE election observation mission being deployed to the parliamentary elections in Montenegro, 10 September. Soares will deliver the post-election statement on behalf of the OSCE on the day following the elections. Mr. Soares will also lead the delegation from the OSCE PA, which will work in close co-operation with the OSCE/ODIHR long-term mission, headed by ODIHR On-site Co-ordinator Jørgen Grunnet, and observers from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

Vice-President Soares has extensive experience in OSCE election observation, including in Montenegro. As directly elected officials, parliamentarians apply their unique knowledge of electoral processes to assess the conduct of the elections and the political campaign, in relation to OSCE commitments. The parliamentarians receive direct briefings

prior to the elections from political, media and civil society leaders, as well as OSCE experts. On election day, the observers will be deployed to polling stations to observe the sealing of ballot boxes in the morning, voting during the day, and the counting of ballots in the evening.



### Secretary General delivers lecture on OSCE at Lund University

On August 15 Secretary General Spencer Oliver traveled to Lund, Sweden, to deliver a lecture entitled '*An Overview of the OSCE from a Parliamentary Perspective*'. Mr. Oliver was speaking to students and faculty from a joint Lund University - University of California programme focused on European-American relations. The Secretary General discussed the role of the CSCE and OSCE on trans-Atlantic relations, providing historical background and a briefing on the current situation.

Professor Adrian Hyde-Pryce, Head of the Department of Politics and International Relations at the University of Leicester also delivered a lecture and along with Oliver co-chaired a panel discussion with students and faculty.



### Needs Assessment Mission for Parliamentary Elections in Latvia

Following an invitation from the Delegation of Latvia to the OSCE Permanent Council, from 3-5 August, Programme / Press Officer Andreas Baker travelled to Latvia on an OSCE Needs Assessment Mission. The purpose of the mission was to consider the need for an election observation mission to the parliamentary elections to be held on 7 October.

The ODIHR-OSCE PA team met with government and election officials, parliamentarians, and media and civil society representatives, as well as diplomatic representatives of OSCE participating States.

#### Election observation deadlines

All delegations are reminded of the following deadlines for registering for upcoming election observation missions:

**Montenegro: 28 August 2006**  
**Bosnia and Herzegovina: 15 September 2006**

Due to observer registration procedures, no late registrations will be possible. Members who are interested in participating in these missions are kindly requested to contact the International Secretariat as soon as possible.