

# News from Copenhagen

## Roberto Battelli in Croatia for Stability Pact meeting

On 16 October 2006 in Zagreb, in the national parliament of Croatia, the Sabor, the Parliamentary Troika of the Stability Pact on South East Europe, chaired by the European Parliament, held its second event of the year. The meeting consisted of two seminars, the first on Judicial Reform in the Region, and the second on Parliamentary Oversight over the Security Sector. Roberto Battelli (Slovenia), the OSCE PA Special Representative on South East Europe, participated on behalf of the Assembly. The event was opened by the President of the Sabor, Vladimir Šeks, attended by the Minister of Justice of Romania as well as parliamentarians from the region, and addressed by a number of outstanding experts.

In his introductory remarks, Mr. Battelli, who was accompanied by Ambassador Andreas Nothelle from the Vienna Liaison Office, announced that the OSCE PA, when chairing the Troika in the coming year, will build on the work achieved by the EP, in particular on such crucial issues for democratic societies as budgetary control and judicial reform. He also briefed the participants on the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's resolution on *Strengthening Parliamentary Oversight of Security and Intelligence Agencies*, sponsored by Mr. Battelli, and adopted this year at the Annual Session in Brussels.

Mr. Battelli and Ambassador Nothelle also made use of the opportunity to enter into a first discussion with Stability Pact experts about the upcoming Parliamentary Assembly Chairmanship of the Troika in 2007. Mr. Battelli has recently invited the Parliamentary Assembly delegations from the region and from neighboring countries to name contact persons and to put forward suggestions for topical issues to be dealt with by the two events that are currently planned for mid-March and the end of September.

## Lenmarker meets with 'monitors of monitors' on OSCE election observation

On 23 October, President Lenmarker met with the Special Envoys of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office on Election Observation, Francois-Xavier De Donnea from Belgium and Jan Petersen from Norway. In particular, they discussed the role of parliamentarians in OSCE election observation missions and how to improve co-operation between the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

The meeting, which took place in Stockholm, was also attended by Deputy Secretary General Tina Schøn from the International Secretariat, Åsa Ekwall from the Swedish Parliament, and Thierry Vuylsteke from the Belgian Foreign Ministry.

Dear Parliamentarians,

As you may have noticed, this edition of the *News from Copenhagen* marks a milestone as the 200<sup>th</sup> bulletin we have published for you. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the remarkable efforts and time that you have all taken from your busy schedules to contribute to the work of the Assembly.



Since the International Secretariat produced the first edition of the *News from Copenhagen* in February 2000, the Assembly has grown in several ways. The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly now holds four to five major meetings each year, has opened a Liaison Office in Vienna, has more Ad Hoc Committees and Special Representatives than ever before, and is more active in leading election monitoring than at any time in the past. Two days ago, the International Secretariat also engaged its 150<sup>th</sup> Research Fellow, continuing the very successful programme through which students gain practical experience in the field of international affairs, and the Assembly benefits from an increased language capacity as well as a strong research capability.

Through this one page bulletin that we send to you and others, the International Secretariat endeavours to keep all those interested in the work of the Assembly fully informed about our activities. We hope that you find this a useful tool. The fact that we've now produced 200 editions of this bulletin is a testimony to the commitment of you and your colleagues to the Assembly.

I look forward to continuing to serve you all in the future,

Yours sincerely,

R. Spencer Oliver

