

News from Copenhagen

Lenmarker: 'Free and fair elections in Serbia'



President Lenmarker delivered the OSCE statement on the Serbian election observation mission in Belgrade, Monday 22 January, along with Assen Agov (NATO PA) and Tadeusz Iwinski (Council of Europe PA)

On behalf of the OSCE, President Göran Lenmarker announced that the 21 January parliamentary elections in Serbia were free and fair, and met OSCE commitments.

"The elections in Serbia were free and fair. I was personally impressed and proud on behalf of the Serb people for the professional, orderly and well-organized way they carried out this election. It bodes well for Serbia's future," said Lenmarker. Having led the OSCE observation mission to the elections, President Lenmarker was speaking at a press conference on 22 January in Belgrade.

Lenmarker was appointed by OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos, to lead the short-term observers and to deliver the OSCE statement.

The International Election Observation Mission concluded that the elections provided a genuine opportunity for the citizens of Serbia to freely choose from a range of political platforms. Political parties and coalitions competed vigorously in an open campaign environment. The election campaign was calm, and checks and balances ensured that the elections reflected the will of the people, in line with OSCE commitments.

President Lenmarker applauded the professionalism with which polling board officials undertook their work, noting that this contributed to a high level of confidence among voters.

The Parliamentary Assemblies of NATO and the Council of Europe joined President Lenmarker's statement on behalf of the OSCE. However, to the surprise of observers and media, the ODIHR issued a separate statement which was not in line with the message or the format agreed to by the International Election Observation Mission. This caused some confusion.

President Lenmarker led the OSCE PA Delegation of over 60 participants, including Joao Soares (Portugal), Wolfgang Grossruck (Austria), Consiglio Di Nino (Canada), Jesus Lopez-Medel (Spain), Christian Miesch (Switzerland) and Roberto Battelli (Slovenia). Mr. Battelli, along with Ms. Habsburg Douglas (Sweden), monitored polling stations in Kosovo. The Mission also included Secretary General Spencer Oliver, Deputy Secretary General Tina Schøn, Ambassador Andreas Nothelle, Communications Director Klas Bergman, Programme Officer Anna Chernova, and Press Officer Andreas Baker from the Copenhagen Headquarters.



OSCE PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver greets OSCE Chairman-in-Office Miguel Angel Moratinos

OSCE PA at season opening in Vienna

On 11 and 12 January, senior staff from the International Secretariat participated in the 2007 OSCE Heads of Mission meeting and the address to the Permanent Council by the new OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos.

Secretary General Spencer Oliver, Deputy Secretary General Tina Schøn, Ambassador Andreas Nothelle, Communications Director Klas Bergman, Programme Officer Anna Chernova and Liaison Officer Andres Blasco participated in the various meetings of Heads of Missions and discussed future co-operation with the representatives of OSCE field missions.