

## Lenmarker Visits Washington

President Goran Lenmarker addressed the United States Helsinki Commission at the U.S. Congress during a visit to Washington, DC 17 to 19 October.

The Hearing was led by Commission chairman, Representative Alcee L. Hastings, and its co-chairman, Senator Benjamin Cardin. It focused on "A Parliamentary Perspective on Security and Cooperation in Today's Europe." Lenmarker's remarks were titled "Europe Whole and Free."

The visit to Washington, DC included addresses at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and the Woodrow Wilson Center for

International Scholars as well as meetings with senior Members of Congress and representatives of the U.S. State Department.

Swedish Ambassador Jonas Hafstrom also hosted a dinner for Mr. Lenmarker. Guests included representatives from the Helsinki Commission and foreign policy experts.

The President was accompanied during the visit by OSCE PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver, Director of Communications Klas Bergman, and Ann-Sofi Lindenbaum, Secretary of Delegation from the Swedish Parliament.



Senator Cardin and Representative Hastings



Secretary General Oliver and President Lenmarker

### Arminas Lydeka Participates in CIS Inter-parliamentary Meeting

On 14-15 September, Arminas Lydeka, Rapporteur of the OSCE PA's General Committee on Political Affairs and Security participated in the proceedings of the Permanent Commission of the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

The meetings focused primarily on political and security matters. Participants were addressed by Marat Sultanov, Speaker of the Kyrgyz Parliament, who presented an overview of recent co-operation in the Shanghai Co-operation Organization. Mr. Sultanov urged a reinforcement of parliamentary and judicial co-operation within the OSCE. Vladimir Litiushkin (Russian Federation), Deputy Chairman of the Council of Federation Committee on the CIS, also addressed the Session and gave a presentation regarding the implications of Anti-Ballistic Missile defence in Europe. Participants also discussed parliamentary co-operation in election monitoring activities.

### Lizin Addresses OSCE Human Dimension Meeting

OSCE PA Vice-President Anne-Marie Lizin participated last week in the OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Implementation Meeting on 'Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children'. In a keynote speech to the Opening Session of the Conference on 18 October in Vienna, Ms. Lizin called on participating States to build on experience from such centres in Belgium and the U.S., where such 'hotlines' are available at all times. An OSCE-wide effort to institute such centres would be a great step forward for child protection, she said.

Ms. Lizin reminded participants of the work undertaken by the OSCE PA in this field - an area in which parliamentarians must play an important role. Protection of children is a common interest for all States and is an area in which the OSCE can play a key role in assisting with exchanges of best practice.