

News from Copenhagen

OSCE PA

Number 112

Current Information from the OSCE PA International Secretariat

8 June 2004

Göran Lennmarker visits Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh

Göran Lennmarker, Special OSCE PA Representative on the Nagorno Karabakh Conflict paid his second working visit to Armenia from 5-7 June 2004. In Yerevan he met with Members of Parliament as well as with government officials to discuss the current situation and explore ways to find a solution to the conflict. In a meeting with Minister for Foreign Affairs Vartan Oskanian, Mr. Lennmarker was informed of present developments within the settlement process and discussed building a more favorable climate towards the conflict's resolution. The Special Representative noted the important role that parliaments can play in this respect and stressed the capabilities of the OSCE

Parliamentary Assembly. He also visited the Armenian National Assembly where he met with the Speaker of the Parliament Arthur Baghdasarian and the OSCE PA Delegation, headed by Vice-Speaker Vahan Hovhannisian. During these meetings the Special Representative discussed the Nagorno Karabakh conflict and European integration of the Caucasus region. He also visited Nagorno Karabakh in order to get first hand information on the situation and the problems of the local population. In Stepanakert and Shusha he met with repre-

sentatives of the de facto leadership as well as refugees and NGOs. Mr. Lennmarker was accompanied by Programme Officer Tina Schön.



OSCE PA and OSCE Office in Yerevan train staff of the Armenian Parliament

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, together with the OSCE Office in Yerevan, is implementing the first phase of a training programme for the staff of the Parliament of Armenia. The objective of the training is to strengthen professional capacities of the staff of three of the six Standing Committees of the National Assembly: the Standing Committee on State and Legal Affairs, the Committee on Defence, National Security and Internal Affairs, and the Committee on Foreign Relations. The training focuses on providing theoretical and practical information and extending the knowledge and skills of the staff of the Committees on a number of areas in daily parliamentary work. In order

to direct the training programme to the specific needs of the trainees, topics have been identified based upon questionnaires and individual interviews with the trainees. The programme includes around twenty staff from the Armenian Parliament. Several OSCE PA Delegations generously offered to provide expertise to the programme. For the first phase two experts representing the parliaments of Lithuania and Italy respectively were chosen. This is the first programme of this kind undertaken by the Parliamentary Assembly in co-operation with an OSCE Mission, and so far the reaction is very positive. Tina Schön is co-ordinating the programme at the International Secretariat



Head of Danish Delegation visits the International Secretariat

On 8 June, Mrs. Helga Moos, new Head of the Danish Delegation to the OSCE PA paid a visit to the International Secretariat in Copenhagen. She met with Secretary General Spencer Oliver, the two Deputy Secretaries General as well as members of staff to discuss current OSCE matters, as well as the upcoming Annual Session in Edinburgh. Mrs. Moos has taken over as Head of the Danish Delegation after Mr. Søren Gade, who was appointed Minister of Defense in April.