

News from Copenhagen

OSCE PA

Number 142

Current Information from the OSCE PA International Secretariat

23 March 2005

Members of the Armenian and Azerbaijani Delegations meet in Brussels

On 17-18 March 2005, Mr. Göran Lennmarker, Special Representative on the Nagorno Karabakh Conflict hosted a visit to Brussels for Members of the Armenian and Azerbaijani Delegations to the OSCE PA. The purpose of the visit was to discuss the future of Azerbaijan and Armenia in the European and Transatlantic Institutions and to get better acquainted with Europe as a model for conflict resolution. The visit also gave an opportunity for the Members to discuss the work and the future of the parliamentary dimension of the OSCE in relation to finding a solution to the Nagorno Karabakh conflict.

The visit started at the NATO Headquarters where the Delegation met Mr. Sherwood McGinnis from the US Mission to NATO and Ambassador Robert Simmons, Deputy Assistant Secretary General at the NATO Political Affairs and Security Policy Division. Both of them expressed the readiness of NATO to support and work together with Armenia and Azerbaijan, but stressed that the OSCE Minsk Group is the negotiator with regard to the Nagorno Karabakh Conflict. The next day, the Delegation met with Mr. Kurt Juul at the European Commission's General Directorate I, who stressed that the decision of the EU to include the South Caucasus in the neighbourhood policy is a unique possibility and an opportunity to the countries in the region. In this connection, he also emphasized the importance of solving the conflicts in the region. Mr. Rihards Piks, Member of the European Parliament from Latvia shared his view on the development of Latvia from being a country in the former USSR to a full-fledged member of the European Union. The Delegation also met with Mr. van Rij from the Secretariat of the Ministerial Council who elaborated on the neighbourhood policy and the opportunities in this. He stressed the need for the involved States to take an active role in forming and meeting commitments, which also includes finding solutions to the unresolved conflicts in the South Caucasus.

Throughout the visit, Members of the Azerbaijani and Armenian Delegations took an active role in asking questions to the NATO and EU Representatives and in discussing their different views with regard to the history of and solution to the conflict.

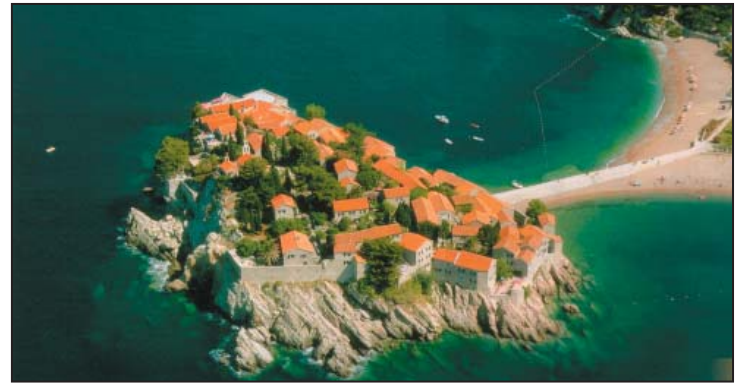
Programme Officer Tina Schøn from the International Secretariat accompanied the Members during the visit.



Fall Meetings in Serbia and Montenegro

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly will hold its 2005 Fall Meetings from 7-9 October in Sveti Stefan, Montenegro. On March 22, Deputy-Secretary General Vitaly Evseyev met with His Excellency Vladimir Radulovic, Ambassador of Serbia and Montenegro to Denmark, to accept a letter of invitation from the Assembly of Serbia and Montenegro.

The Fall Meetings will include a Conference, Standing Committee Meeting and the Mediterranean Forum. Further information on these meetings will be forwarded to delegations shortly.



OSCE PA Represented at Madrid Summit on Democracy and Terrorism

President Alcee L. Hastings appointed Vice-President Giovanni Kessler to represent the OSCE PA at the the International Summit on Democracy, Terrorism and Security held in Madrid from 8 to 11 March. Vice-President Barbara Haering also participated in the Summit.

The Summit – held one year after the Madrid train massacre – brought together numerous current and former Heads of State and Government, and leading experts from various governmental and non-governmental institutions to debate ideas on how to fight terrorism within a democratic framework. Former OSCE Parliamentary Assembly President Javier Rupérez participated and addressed the Summit in his current capacity as Executive Director of the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee. Vice-President Haering actively participated as an expert in the working group on intelligence under the subject area of confronting terrorism.

The Summit adopted the *Madrid Agenda*, a global democratic response to the threat of terrorism. This document is intended to be a plan of action for Governments, institutions, civil society, the media and individuals. Vice-Presidents Haering and Kessler were accompanied by Gustavo Pallares, Adviser to the President, from the International Secretariat.