President Len­nmark­er addresses OSCE Per­man­ent Coun­cil

OSCE PA President Göran Len­nmark­er today addressed the repre­sen­ta­tives of the OSCE par­ti­ci­pants at the Per­man­ent Coun­cil, in Vien­na. The Pres­i­dent took the op­por­tu­nity to en­courage greater input by mem­bers of the Per­man­ent Coun­cil on OSCE Par­lia­men­tary Assem­by rec­om­men­da­tions.

Len­nmark­er stressed the con­tin­u­ing rele­vance of the OSCE, par­tic­u­larly in the fields of con­flict res­o­lu­tion, and strength­en­ing democ­racy and hu­man rights. He also noted the im­por­tance of trans­at­lan­tic rela­tions and the ac­tive par­tic­i­pa­tion of Cen­tral Asian coun­tries in the work of the OSCE. In this re­gard, he wel­comed Kazakh­stan’s in­ter­est in assum­ing the role of Chair­man­ship-in-Of­fice in 2009. The Pres­i­dent also re­mark­ed on the im­por­tance of par­lia­men­tary in­vol­vement in over­sight of the OSCE. He re­i­ter­ated rec­om­men­da­tions from the Assem­by’s Brus­sels De­cla­ra­tion, which stress the im­por­tance of ef­fective mon­i­tor­ing to in­crease ef­fi­ency and trans­pa­ren­cy in the Or­ga­ni­za­tion.

Len­nmark­er not­ed that Par­lia­men­tar­i­ans can pro­vide val­u­able as­sistance to the de­vel­op­ment of the Or­ga­ni­za­tion through such over­sight.

Pres­i­dent Len­nmark­er also dis­cussed OSCE elec­tion ob­ser­va­tion ac­tiv­i­ties, not­ing the As­sem­by’s calls for con­tin­ued po­li­ti­cal lea­di­ship by par­lia­men­tar­i­ans of such mis­sions. He em­pha­sized the im­por­tance of only ap­ply­ing agreed OSCE com­mit­ments dur­ing such mis­sions, and warned of the dan­gers of ap­ply­ing dou­ble stan­dards.

Fi­nally, the Pres­i­dent noted the im­por­tance of re­form­ing the de­ci­sion mak­ing mecha­ni­sms of the OSCE in or­der to in­crease the flex­i­bil­ity and rele­vance of the Or­ga­ni­za­tion.

Pres­i­dent Len­nmark­er was ac­com­pa­nied by Sec­re­ta­ry General Spenc­er Ol­iver, De­puty Sec­re­ta­ry Gen­eral Tina Schøn, Ambas­sador Andreas Nothelle, and Liai­son Of­fi­cer Andres Blasco from the In­ter­na­tional Sec­re­ta­ri­at.

Lennmarker pays visit to Germany

and meets with OSCE Chairman-in-Office in Brussels

From 6 to 8 No­vem­ber, Pres­i­dent Len­nmark­er vis­ited Ber­lin to dis­cuss OSCE is­sues and ex­pecta­tions for the up­com­ing OSCE Min­is­terial Coun­cil meet­ing in Brus­sels next month. The Pres­i­dent also took the op­por­tu­nity to dis­cuss pre­par­a­tions for the up­com­ing Ger­man Pres­i­dency of the EU.

Mr. Len­nmark­er met with the Ger­man De­lega­tion to the OSCE PA, in­clud­ing Vice-Spok­sman of the Ger­man Bun­destag Wolf­gang Thier­se. He also met with the Chair­man of the Foreign Af­fairs Com­mit­tee as well as with the Sec­re­ta­ry of State for Foreign Af­fairs. In all of the meet­ings, Pres­i­dent Len­nmark­er stressed the need to strength­en the role of the Par­lia­men­tary Assem­by with­in the OSCE as a for­um for par­lia­men­tary di­al­o­gue. He high­lighted the role Mem­bers of Par­lia­ment play na­tion­ally and in­ter­na­tion­al­ly when it comes to par­lia­men­tary over­sight and pro­vid­ing trans­pa­ren­cy and ac­count­a­bil­i­ty. He fur­ther em­pha­sized that in con­flict res­o­lu­tion and re­ha­bil­i­ta­tion, par­lia­men­tary diplo­macy can play a unique role in in­form­ing the pub­lic and seek­ing ac­cep­tance for a solu­tion nego­ti­at­ed be­tween Gov­ern­ments.

In ad­di­tion, Pres­i­dent Len­nmark­er stressed the im­por­tant role of the OSCE Par­lia­men­tary Assem­by in elec­tion ob­ser­va­tion. He em­pha­sized that as par­lia­men­tar­i­ans are eclec­ted by the pub­lic, they have unique ex­pe­rience in elec­tions and pro­vide cred­i­bil­i­ty and vis­i­bil­i­ty to the OSCE in this field. Pres­i­dent Len­nmark­er was ac­com­pa­nied OSCE PA De­puty Sec­re­ta­ry Gen­eral Tina Schøn, Ambas­sador Andreas Nothelle and Åsa Ek­wall, Ad­visor from the Swe­dish Par­lia­ment.

On 8 No­vem­ber in Brus­sels, Pres­i­dent Len­nmark­er met the OSCE Chair­man-in-Office, Bel­gian For­eign Min­is­ter Karel De Gucht. The dis­cu­sion main­ly fo­cused on the pre­par­a­tions for the up­com­ing Min­is­terial Coun­cil Meet­ing and the state of af­fairs with­in the OSCE. Un­re­solved con­flicts and the Min­is­ter’s re­cent vis­it to Kazakh­stan as well as the role of OSCE elec­tion ob­ser­va­tion mis­sions were also dis­cussed. In ac­cord­ance with usu­al prac­tice, the Min­is­ter also in­vited Pres­i­dent Len­nmark­er to ad­dress the Min­is­terial Coun­cil at the open­ing ses­sion of the Min­is­terial Coun­cil in Brus­sels, De­cember 4.

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