

News from Copenhagen

OSCE PA Economic Conference in Andorra



Participants included PA Vice-President Joao Soares (Portugal), Josep Dalleres (Andorra), and Isabel Pozuelo (Spain)

‘Strengthening Stability and Co-operation through International Trade’

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly held its fifth Economic Conference in Andorra la Vella, Andorra, 24 to 26 May 2007.

At the invitation of the Consell General (Parliament) of Andorra, nearly one hundred parliamentarians from over 30 OSCE countries participated in the conference, which was inaugurated by the President of the Andorran Parliament, Joan Gabriel I Estany and PA President Göran Lennmarker. The Prime Minister of Andorra, Albert Pintat, also addressed the participants.

All the speakers stressed the importance of trade. A “prime motor in creating wealth,” said President Lennmarker but also added that “when there is trade, there is usually peace.” And he pointed to the importance of keeping and strengthening the international trading system. “We parliamentarians must stand up for that,” he said.

Prime Minister Pintat said that free trade is of “fundamental importance for all countries, rich or poor” and he called it a “true tool for progress and development.”

The two-day conference examined topics related to the

central theme and discussed in five different sessions issues on International Trade and Security; International Trade in a Globalized World; Borders and International Trade; Labour and Social Aspects of International Trade; and International Trade and the Environment.

Since 1997, the OSCE PA has organized an Economic Conference every two years, providing parliamentarians with occasions to exchange views with colleagues and international experts and to deepen their understanding of OSCE issues within the wider context of OSCE principles and OSCE’s comprehensive concept of security.

Bernard Snoy, the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities participated in the Conference and led discussion in the session on labour and social aspects of trade. It has been traditional for the Co-ordinator, whose office was created upon recommendation of the OSCE PA, to work closely with the Assembly during OSCE PA Economic Conferences. The four previous conferences were held in Tromsø, Bern, Nantes, and Monaco.



President Lennmarker speaks to OSCE Economic Co-ordinator Bernard Snoy, and the Prime Minister of Andorra, Albert Pintat