

Lenmarker Appoints Christopher Smith Special Representative on Human Trafficking Issues



President Goran Lenmarker has appointed United States Congressman Christopher Smith as his Special Representative on Human Trafficking Issues. The appointment is intended to facilitate the presence and involvement of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in the international debate on trafficking issues.

Congressman Smith, a Member of the U.S. Commission on Security and Co-operation in Europe, has long been active in combating human trafficking, including within the Parliamentary Assembly.

The OSCE PA has regularly addressed issues related to trafficking in human beings and has passed recommendations in this field. In appointing Congressman Smith to the post, President Lenmarker stressed the importance of closely following discussions and proposals in the international arena on the issue of trafficking.

Specifically, Congressman Smith has been tasked to:

- Collect information on human trafficking in the OSCE region.
- Promote dialogue in the OSCE, in its Parliamentary Assembly in particular, on how to combat human trafficking.
- Advise the Assembly both on the implementation of its agreed policies in these matters as well as on the development of new policies.
- Consider how to protect the victims and how to combat the criminal elements involved.
- Communicate with relevant actors within the OSCE who work on issues concerning human trafficking.

The OSCE PA has 10 Special Representatives on areas of particular interest. There are Special Representatives on Gender Issues, Mediterranean Affairs, Guantánamo, South East Europe, the OSCE Budget, Anti-Terrorism, Central Asia, the Fight against Transnational Organized Crime, Migration, and Human Trafficking Issues.

Election Observation Missions

The International Secretariat is undertaking preparations for missions to observe elections in Russia (2 December 2007), and Kyrgyzstan (16 December 2007), as well as potentially in Georgia where elections are anticipated on 5 January 2008.

Russian Federation

From 14 to 16 November, President Goran Lenmarker is visiting Moscow to discuss observation of the Russian elections to the State Duma on 2 December.

Accompanied on this working visit by Secretary General Spencer Oliver and Deputy Secretary General Vitaly Evseyev, Lenmarker will hold talks with leading Russian officials, including Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, First Deputy Chairperson of the State Duma, Liubov Sliska, and Vladimir Churov, head of the Central Election Commission.

Kyrgyzstan

All Members interested in observing the upcoming parliamentary elections in Kyrgyzstan are kindly requested to submit their completed forms to the International Secretariat by **22 November**.

Chairman of Third Committee in Baku

The Chairman of the Assembly's General Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions, Jesus Lopez-Medel (Spain), visited Baku 5-6 November.

Mr. Lopez-Medel held meetings in the Azerbaijani capital with the OSCE Office in Baku, the Foreign Affairs Ministry, the Parliament, political parties and NGOs.



New Research Team at Secretariat

The International Secretariat in Copenhagen has five new Research Fellows, who are conducting substantive research on various projects. Annie Magnus (Norway), Maria Shabanova (Russian Federation), Dadodjan Azimov (Tajikistan), Thibault Meilland (France), and Christiane Schwausch (Germany) have joined the Secretariat for a six-month term. At the OSCE PA Liaison Office in Vienna, Philip Castro (USA) and Tatsiana Aliakseyeva (Belarus) have joined with Patrick Ager (Austria) and Dinka Jasarevic (Sweden) to form the research team. The Fellows provide assistance to officials and staff and gain useful experience in the field of international relations.