

News from Copenhagen

Anne-Marie Lizin appointed Special Co-ordinator for Armenia election

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Vice-President, Anne-Marie Lizin, Belgium, has been appointed Special Co-ordinator for the Presidential election in Armenia on 19 February 2008 by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Foreign Minister Ilkka Kanerva.

Ms. Lizin, who will also head the delegation from the OSCE PA, is an experienced election observer. Senator Lizin led the OSCE PA observers deployed in Vladivostok during the observation mission to the Russian Duma elections in December 2007. She is also the OSCE PA Special Representative on Guantanamo and has paid two visits to the US detention facility, strongly arguing for its closure.

As Special Co-ordinator, Ms. Lizin will lead the OSCE short-term observers and deliver the preliminary post-election statement on behalf of the OSCE and in conjunction with other appropriate officials. The post-election statement will be made public at a press conference on the day after the election.

The Chairman-in-Office will also send a personal representative to the Armenian election, Ambassador Heikki Talvite, who played the same role during the

elections this earlier this month in Georgia.

From the International Secretariat the OSCE PA delegation will be supported by Deputy Secretary General Tina Schoen and Programme Officer Andreas Baker.



Vice-President Lizin led the OSCE PA observers in Vladivostok, in December 2007

Preparations finalized for next Winter Meeting

Around 400 participants from almost 50 countries will gather in Vienna on 21 and 22 February 2008 for the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's seventh Winter Meeting.

This two-day meeting will allow the Assembly's parliamentarians to follow up on past work and to prepare for this year's Annual Session, which will be held from 29 June to 3 July in Kazakhstan's capital Astana.

Preceded by a session of the OSCE PA's Standing Committee, the Winter Meeting will kick off on Thursday, 21 February with a Joint Session, which will be addressed by, among others, OSCE PA President Goran Lenmarker and the President of the Austrian Nationalrat Barbara Prammer.

The Joint Session will be followed by separate meetings of the Assembly's three General Committees. These meetings will provide an opportunity for each Committee to consider progress since the previous Annual Session in Kyiv in 2007 and to hear and discuss preparations by the Rapporteurs of the three Committees of their upcoming Reports to be presented in Astana next summer. The theme for the Astana Annual Session is "*Transparency in the OSCE*."

The Winter Meeting is the second largest meeting on the Assembly's annual calendar and it serves as an important opportunity for the Members of the Assembly to interact with senior representatives of the governmental structures of the OSCE. The OSCE Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut will address the Assembly Standing Committee and answer questions. As at previous Winter Meetings, there will be a special debate on current political issues, such as Kosovo, missile defence, and the CFE Treaty.

Draft Programme of the Winter Meeting

Thursday, 21 February

09.00-11.30	Standing Committee
11.45-13.00	Joint Session of the three General Committees:
-	Call to order;
-	Opening remarks by the President of the OSCE PA, Mr. Göran Lenmarker;
-	Address by the President of the Austrian Nationalrat, Ms. Barbara Prammer;
13.00-15.00	Lunch break
15.00-18.00	General Committee on Political Affairs and Security
15.00-18.00	General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment
18.30	Reception offered by the Austrian Parliament

Friday, 22 February

09.00-12.00	General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions
12.00-13.30	Lunch break
13.30-16.30	Closing Joint Session of the three General Committees:
-	Call to order;
-	Special Debate on current political issues: Kosovo, Missile Defense: the CFE Treaty.
-	Report by the OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues Vice-President Tone Tingstgård followed by a debate;
-	Reports by the Chairs of the three General Committees;
-	Concluding statement by the OSCE PA President Mr. Göran Lenmarker