

News from Copenhagen

Lenmarker and Kanerva visit Caucasus

The President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Goran Lenmarker, went together with the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Finnish Foreign Minister Ilkka Kanerva, on a recent visit to the South Caucasus.

The OSCE delegation visited all three countries in the region, Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan, from 25 to 28 February. The delegation met with the leading officials from all three countries,

including the three presidents and, in Armenia, the president-elect Serge Sargsyan as well as other presidential candidates, representatives of opposition parties and of the OSCE missions in the region.

The topics discussed included the conflicts in Nagorno-Karabakh and the Georgian-South Ossetian conflict as well



OSCE: Susanna Loof

as elections. The visit to Armenia's capital Yerevan coincided with demonstrations for and against the result of the Presidential election on 19 February. The OSCE delegation said that the only way forward was to continue the political dialogue and that the OSCE was ready to continue helping the country as it attempts to consolidate its democracy and address shortcomings noted by

OSCE and other election observers.

President Lenmarker has long been involved in regional issues, particularly in working to solve the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh. In June last year, he visited South Caucasus with the previous OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Spain's Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos.

News from Copenhagen now available in Russian

On 28 February the International Secretariat distributed the first Russian language version of the *News from Copenhagen* bulletin. With the support of the Russian parliament, which is generously providing translation capacity, this new service is intended to distribute information about Assembly activities more widely throughout the OSCE region. The *News from Copenhagen*, one of the International Secretariat's primary communication tools, provides up-to-date information on Assembly activities and the work by OSCE PA Members and staff of the International Secretariat.

As with all Assembly documents, the Russian *News from*

Copenhagen can be downloaded from the Assembly website at www.oscepa.org. All those interested in receiving this bulletin by email are kindly requested to contact Director of Communications Klas Bergman (klas@oscepa.dk) or Press Officer Andreas Baker (andreas.baker@oscepa.dk)



International Secretariat welcomes new staff member



Semyon Dzakhaev, Russian Federation

The International Secretariat recently welcomed a new member to the staff, Semyon Dzakhaev from the Russian Federation. As Senior Counsellor, Mr. Dzakhaev is responsible for organizing meetings of the Assembly, including Annual Sessions and Winter Meetings, meetings of the Standing Committee and the Bureau, and various conferences and seminars. In addition, he serves as the liaison officer with the parliaments of the CIS region. Mr. Dzakhaev has a wide range of experience in diplomatic and international parliamentary affairs, having served for many years at the Russian Foreign Ministry and in senior positions in the Russian Parliament. In the Parliament, he was also a Secretary of the Inter-Parliamentary Group of the Russian Federation and a Secretary of the Russian Delegation to the OSCE PA.