

## Assembly leadership meets in Copenhagen

The Bureau of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly met in Copenhagen on 14 April in preparation for the upcoming Annual Session in Kazakhstan's capital Astana 29 June – 3 July 2008.

Chaired by OSCE PA President Goran Lenmarker, the meeting brought together the elected officials of the Assembly: the Treasurer, PA's Vice-Presidents, and Officers of the three General Committees. Ambassador Aleksi Harkonen, representing the Finnish OSCE Chairman-in-Office, also participated in the meeting.

President Lenmarker reported on his activities since the Assembly's Winter Meeting in February, including his official visits to Canada and several of the Mediterranean Partner countries and his visit to the South Caucasus together with the Finnish OSCE Chairman-in-Office.

Hosted by the Danish Parliament, the meeting provided an opportunity to review and discuss future Assembly activities and plans.

The Rapporteurs of the three General Committees presented their draft Reports and Resolutions, which they are preparing for the Annual Session. Members of the Bureau provided comments and feedback on the drafts, which the Rapporteurs will now consider when finalizing their work. Once completed,



Ambassador Aleksi Harkonen representing the OSCE CIO addresses the Bureau

the Reports and Resolutions will be distributed to all PA delegations.

The Assembly's Special Representative on South East Europe, Roberto Battelli (Slovenia) briefed the Bureau on the political situation in the Western Balkans and on the 11 May elections in Serbia, which will be monitored by the OSCE PA, led by Mr. Battelli.

A delegation from Kazakhstan informed Members about the preparations for the Annual Session in Astana, which will be the first Session in Central Asia. Members were also briefed on the Fall Meetings scheduled for September in Toronto, Canada.

PA Treasurer Hans Raidel (Germany) gave a positive report on the finances of the Assembly after meeting with the outside auditors, KPMG. Mr. Raidel praised the financial management of the Assembly and put forward the proposed budget for 2008/2009, which was unanimously endorsed by the PA Bureau. The proposed budget increase is a 6.9% over last year's budget, mainly for PA election observation activities.

Secretary General Spencer Oliver reported on recent activities as well as an increase in staff capacity in both Copenhagen and Vienna. He also reported on a recent visit to the Center For OSCE Research in Hamburg, where he delivered a lecture on election observation and, along with Deputy Secretary General Tina Schøn, participated in a colloquium on "OSCE Election Observation - Experiences and Challenges Ahead."



The new Danish Head of Delegation, Troels Christensen, talks to Kuanysh Sultanov of the Kazakh Delegation