

## President Lennmarker and Vice-President Soares visit Morocco and Tunisia



Mr. Lennmarker meets with Sarra Kanoun Jaraya, Minister of Women and Family in the Tunisian Government

As part of the Assembly's continuous efforts to enhance contacts and strengthen co-operation with the Parliaments of the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, OSCE PA President Goran Lennmarker and Vice-President Joao Soares visited Morocco and Tunisia from 26 to 30 April.

Hosted by the Speakers of the respective Parliaments, Mr. Lennmarker and Mr. Soares held extensive meetings with high level parliamentary and governmental officials.

In Rabat, they met with Mustapha Mansouri, Speaker of the Moroccan House of Representatives, and a delegation of Moroccan Parliamentarians representing different political factions. They were received by Foreign Minister Taib Fassi-Fihri and also met with the President of the Consultative Council of Human Rights, Ahmed Herzenni. In Rabat the OSCE PA Delegation also met President Khalli Errachid and the leadership of the Royal Advisory Council for Saharan Affairs to discuss the problems and prospects of this territory.

In Tunis, they held meetings with Fouad Mebazaa,

President of the Chamber of Deputies, and Hatem Ben Salem, State Minister of Foreign Affairs, and also visited a project financed by the Tunisian National Solidarity Fund 26-26 and met the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development, Nadhir Hamada.

Mr. Lennmarker and Mr. Soares were particularly pleased to meet with Sarra Kanoun Jaraya, Minister of Women and Family in the Tunisian Government, with whom they discussed social policies and gender equality issues in Tunisia. President Lennmarker stressed the importance with which the OSCE PA regards the promotion of gender equality, and he and Mr. Soares welcomed the important initiatives of the Tunisian Government to promote women's rights in Tunisia and throughout the Arab world.

The OSCE PA delegation encouraged the Moroccan and Tunisian representatives to continue their participation in the Assembly's main sessions, and they, in turn, welcomed the Assembly's efforts to further develop the PA's Mediterranean dimension. The annual Parliamentary Mediterranean Forum, to be held this year in Toronto on 20 September, will provide an excellent opportunity to enhance contacts between the OSCE parliamentarians and their colleagues from the Mediterranean partners.

Also participating in the visit were OSCE PA Deputy Secretary General, Gustavo Pallares; Thomas Horberg, Head of the Secretariat of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Swedish Parliament, and Ann-Sofi Lindenbaum, Senior Adviser and Secretary of the Swedish Delegation to the OSCE PA.

During his two-year mandate, President Lennmarker has visited Algeria, Israel, Morocco, Jordan, and Tunis – five of the six OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation.

### Deadlines approaching for the Annual Session in Astana

We kindly remind all Delegations that deadlines are approaching for the Seventeenth Annual Session to be held in Astana, Kazakhstan, from 29 June to 3 July. Please make a note of the following dates.

Deadline for registration of Delegates: 1 June

Deadline for presenting Supplementary Items: 8 June

Deadline for Amendments to the Draft Resolutions: 15 June

Deadline for Amendments for Supplementary Items: 22 June

Our website, [www.oscepa.org](http://www.oscepa.org), has additional practical information on registration and hotel accommodations. Also available on the website are the three Committee Reports and Draft Resolutions.

### Ambassador calls on PA Secretariat to discuss developments in OSCE



Jorg Willy Bronebakk, the Norwegian Ambassador to Denmark, speaks with Norwegian Research Fellow Annie Magnus and Secretary General Spencer Oliver