

President Lennmarker plans 2007 PA activities



President Lennmarker meets with senior staff at the International Secretariat in Copenhagen

On 9 January PA President Göran Lennmarker visited the Assembly institutional headquarters in Copenhagen to discuss plans for the coming months with the Secretary General and senior staff. This was the President's third visit to the headquarters since being elected in July 2006.

The President was in Copenhagen to discuss Assembly activities and to plan future work, including in particular the role of the Assembly in election observation activities and democratic development. President Lennmarker will head the OSCE PA mission to observe the Serbian parliamentary elections next week which will include more than 60 OSCE Parliamentarians and 15 Members from the NATO Parliamentary Assembly.

The President and Secretary General Spencer Oliver agreed that the Assembly will focus greater attention on OSCE field missions during 2007. In December 2006, President Lennmarker visited the OSCE field missions in Belgrade, Pristina, Skopje and Tirana. The Assembly's Ad Hoc Committees and Special Representatives also lend strong support to the work of the Organization in the field.

In early February President Lennmarker will travel to Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan, where he will meet with local leaders and the OSCE field missions. The President will also travel to Canada and the United States, as well as to Central Asia in coming months.

While in Copenhagen, the President also met with the Head of the Danish Delegation to the PA, Kristian Pihl Lorentzen, who serves as the Rapporteur of the Assembly's First General Committee on Political Affairs and Security. Mr. Lorentzen informed the President about his work on preparing the First Committee report, which will be presented during the Annual Session in Kyiv, in July 2007.

Secretary General Spencer Oliver, Deputy Secretary General Tina Schøn, Communications Director Klas Bergman and Programme Officer Anna Chernova will join Ambassador Andreas Nothelle and Liaison Officer Andres Blasco in Vienna later this week for the annual meeting of Heads of Missions and the address by the new Chairman-in-Office, Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos.



President Lennmarker and Klas Bergman

Klas Bergman joins Secretariat

On 8 January Klas Bergman arrived in Copenhagen to become the Assembly's new Director of Communications. Mr. Bergman, from Sweden, has widespread journalistic and public affairs experience. As a former Correspondent for the Swedish daily Dagens Nyheter he was posted in Belgrade, Rome and Washington, D.C.

With experience in both print and broadcast journalism, Mr. Bergman also served as a correspondent for the U.S. daily Christian Science Monitor, reporting from Eastern and Western Europe, and North America. In addition, he has served as communications manager and spokesman at Yale University, Stanford University, the UN Development Programme and the World Bank.