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Anna Politkovskaya Wins Journalism Prize

The OSCE PA Bureau has decided to award the 8th OSCE Prize for Journalism and Democracy to Russian journalist Ms. Anna Politkovskaya. In announcing the decision of the Bureau, OSCE PA President Bruce George, said that *"granting her this honour is a strong statement of the Parliamentary Assembly in support of courageous and professional journalism, for human rights and freedom of the media"*. The President also announced that the Prize will be presented at the OSCE PA Winter Meeting in Vienna.

Ms. Politkovskaya, a journalist with the independent Russian newspaper Novaya Gazeta, has gained international

recognition for her extensive and balanced reporting in Chechnya, drawing attention to human rights abuses in the region. Her work has also been published in English in the book *"The Dirty War: A Russian Reporter in Chechnya."* Her investigative reporting has led to her receiving death threats on several occasions and she was once arrested by Russian soldiers in Chechnya. In 2000 Ms. Politkovskaya was awarded the Russian Union of Journalists' Golden Pen Award for her dispatches from Chechnya's second war and last year she received the Courage in Journalism Award from the International Women's Media Foundation.

President George Visits Moscow

OSCE PA President Bruce George visited Moscow from 2-4 February 2003 at the invitation of the Chairman of the Russian State Duma, Mr. Gennady Seleznev, who is also a Vice President of the OSCE PA. During his visit, President George had talks with Mr. Seleznev and other senior members of the Russian Delegation to the OSCE PA, as well as with the Chairman of the State Duma Defence Committee, Mr. Andrey Nickolayev, Chairman of the State Duma International Affairs Committee, Mr. Dmitri Rogozin, Chairman of the Council of Federation Committee for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Mikhail Margelov, and Deputy Chairman of the State Duma Defence Committee, Mr. Alexei Arbatov. President George also met with Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr. Vladimir Chizhov. Mr. George's discussions in Moscow included the most urgent questions on the OSCE agenda, such as Belarus, Chechnya, Moldova, Central Asia, as well as the future role of the OSCE in the new architecture of Europe. Secretary General Spencer Oliver and Deputy Secretary General Vitaly Evseyev also participated in the visit.

Address to Council of Europe PA

On 28 January the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Bruce George, visited the Council of Europe (CoE) in Strasbourg and held meetings with the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), Mr. Peter Schieder and the Secretary General of the CoE Mr. Walter Schwimmer. In his address to the PACE, President George emphasized the importance of the close co-operation between the OSCE and the CoE. "Building European security, in a comprehensive way, and preventing conflict is a challenge both for the OSCE and for the Council of Europe - and it is a challenge that can best be faced by both organisations working together and maximising our respective areas of competence and comparative advantage. Likewise at the parliamentary level - and I am pleased that our two Assemblies have established a close relationship and an effective and mutually reinforcing division of labour." Mr. George said. The OSCE PA President emphasized that, especially in fields such as election monitoring and on the parliamentary dimension of the Stability Pact, co-operation between the two institutions has been particularly successful.

OSCE PA Vice-President Gert Weisskirchen attends "3+3"

A meeting between the leaderships of the OSCE and the Council of Europe - "3+3" - took place in The Hague on 5 February 2003. The Meeting was hosted by the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, Mr. Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, Foreign Minister of the Netherlands. Other participants were Mr. Joseph Borg, Chairman-in-Office of the CoE and Foreign Minister of Malta, Mr. Gert Weisskirchen, Vice-President of the OSCE PA, Mr. Peter Schieder, President of the PACE, Ambassador Jan Kubis, Secretary General of the OSCE, Mr. Walter Schwimmer, Secretary General of the CoE and OSCE PA Deputy Secretary General, Pentti Väänänen.

The agenda included a number of issues where the two institutions are involved and where coordination and co-operation would

be needed, such as Chechnya, Moldova, Belarus and trafficking in human beings.

Participants at the "3+3" meeting were also invited to visit the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. The delegation met with the President of the ICTY, Mr. Claude Jorda and members of the Prosecutors Office. They also attended part of the Court session concerning Mr. Milosevic. Mr. Jorda and members of the Prosecutor's Office explained the difficulties, caused by some governments' failure to cooperate with the ICTY. They asked the OSCE and the CoE to use their influence, in particular on Belgrade and Zagreb, to persuade the authorities to be more co-operative.