

# News from Copenhagen

## Preparations for Brussels Session in Full Swing



BRUSSELS, 3-7 JULY 2006  
BELGIUM

At the invitation of the Belgian Parliament, the 15th Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly will take place from 3 – 7 July 2006 in Brussels. A team of the International Secretariat comprised of Deputy Secretary General Vitaly Evseyev, Presidential Adviser Gustavo Pallares and General Services Officer Kurt Lerras visited Brussels from 21 to 23 November to discuss the arrangements for the forthcoming Session. The Session will be held in the premises of the European

Parliament where conditions and infrastructure are highly developed. The Belgian hosts are in a process of booking hotels in Brussels which are within walking distance from the meeting premises and making every effort to make the Session a successful and memorable event.

The members of the International Secretariat met with the members of the Belgian Delegation Mr. Pieter de Crem and Mr. Francois-Xavier de Donnea as well as with the Secretaries General of both Chambers of the Belgian Parliament. They also had a meeting with the Head of Protocol of the European Parliament.

The Assembly's Annual Session in Brussels will coincide with the Belgian Chairmanship of the OSCE in 2006.

### Assembly Recommendations on OSCE Budget Conveyed to OSCE Permanent Council

On 23 November, the Chair of the PA's Working Group on the OSCE Budget, Nebahat Albayrak (the Netherlands), conveyed a letter providing feedback on the draft OSCE 2006 Budget to the Chairman of the Permanent Council and to the OSCE Secretary General. This was part of an ongoing effort by the OSCE PA to contribute to the OSCE budgetary process. In order to improve input by the Assembly on the OSCE budget, the Working Group on the OSCE Budget was established following a recommendation in the Assembly's Edinburgh Declaration of 2004.

In the letter addressed to Ambassador Janez Lenarcic and Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, Mrs. Albayrak welcomed the Secretary General's presentation of the draft budget to the Assembly's Standing Committee in Sveti-Stefan in October. Based on the lively debate which ensued, and on documents adopted by the Assembly, Mrs. Albayrak highlighted budgetary trends endorsed by the Assembly, but also called attention to areas in need of further work.

The letter noted the Assembly's call for greater transparency in the entire budget process and for more long-term budget planning in order to enable the implementation of longer-term strategies. It reiterated calls by the Assembly for strengthening the Organization's field presence, and questioned whether the continued shift of resources to the structures in Vienna accomplishes this objective. Referring to recommendations articulated in the PA's Colloquium of Experts on OSCE Reform, in June 2005, Mrs. Albayrak noted that the Organization has still not moved away from its heavy reliance on seconded personnel, despite persistent appeals by the Assembly.

### Göran Lenmarker Visits the International Secretariat



On 25 November, Mr. Göran Lenmarker (Sweden), Chair of the First General Committee and Special Representative on the Nagorno Karabakh Conflict, visited the International Secretariat. During a meeting with Secretary General Spencer Oliver and Deputy Secretary General Tina Schøn, Mr. Lenmarker discussed his plans for future activities with regard to the Nagorno Karabakh Conflict as well as the activities of the General Committee on Political Affairs and Security. In addition, Deputy Secretary General Vitaly Evseyev briefed Mr. Lenmarker, who also serves as a member of the Rules Committee, on the amendments to the Assembly's Rules of Procedure.

### Expanded Bureau to Meet in Ljubljana

In accordance with the proposal of President Alcee L. Hastings at the last meeting of the Standing Committee, a meeting of the Expanded Bureau will be held in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on 4 December, in conjunction of the Ministerial Council. The Expanded Bureau meeting will be addressed by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Foreign Minister of Slovenia,

Mr. Dimitriji Rupel, and by the Head of the Slovenian Delegation to the OSCE PA, Mr. Roberto Battelli. After the Expanded Bureau meeting its members will form an OSCE PA delegation who will attend the Ministerial Council on 5 and 6 December. OSCE PA President Hastings will address the Ministerial Council on 5 December.