

Lenmarker on Presidential visit to Moscow

From 9 to 11 October, OSCE PA President Göran Lenmarker visited Moscow for a two-day working visit. Lenmarker met with the leadership of the Federation Council and the Duma, as well as the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Chairman of the Central Election Commission.

In his meeting with the Speaker of the Duma, Boris Gryzlov, and the Vice-Chairman of the Federation Council, Alexander Torshin, President Lenmarker particularly discussed OSCE reform, and OSCE election observation activities. The President was informed about Russian views in key OSCE activities and fields of work. The participants discussed new political realities in the OSCE area, as well as ways to improve the effectiveness of the Organization. The Russian parliamentary leadership described their view of the role of the Russian Federation, and of the OSCE in “frozen conflicts” within the OSCE region.

In his meeting with Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, the President particularly discussed issues of oversight of OSCE institutions, as well as questions regarding the status of the OSCE and OSCE programmes. Minister Lavrov expressed his support for a leading role by parliamentarians in OSCE election observation activities, as well as in conflict resolution activities in the OSCE area.

Alexander Veshnyakov, Chairman of the Central Election Commission, provided President Lenmarker with an overview of the recent legislative challenges in Russia, and the preparatory activities for the 2007-2008 elections. Mr. Veshnyakov invited the OSCE PA to observe the upcoming elections.

President Lenmarker also met with Mr. Merzliakov, Ambassador at Large. They particularly discussed issues relating to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, as well as the role of parliamentarians in supporting the conflict resolution process.

While in Moscow, Lenmarker also met with students from the Moscow State Institute of Foreign Affairs, and conducted a



President Lenmarker met with Foreign Minister Lavrov

question-and-answer session on issues relating to the OSCE and parliamentary diplomacy.

The visit was supported by the Russian Delegation to the OSCE PA. Secretary General Spencer Oliver, Deputy Secretary General Vitaly Evseyev, and Programme Officer Anna Chernova accompanied the President.

Visits to International Secretariat

On 5 October, Kristian Pihl Lorentzen, Head of the Danish Delegation, and Rapporteur of the Assembly's First General Committee, visited the Secretariat to discuss work regarding his upcoming report, as well as current Assembly activities.

On the same day Mikhail Krotov, Secretary General of the CIS Inter-Parliamentary Assembly Council, visited the Secretariat and met with Secretary General Spencer Oliver and Deputy Secretary General Vitaly Evseyev to discuss election observation activities.



Lenmarker discussed OSCE issues with students at the Institute of Foreign Affairs, in Moscow