

## Incoming OSCE Chairman-in-Office Visits Assembly Headquarters in Copenhagen

On Monday 8 October, Ilkka Kanerva, Finnish Foreign Minister and incoming OSCE Chairman-in-Office in 2008, visited the International Secretariat in Copenhagen. In a working visit, Minister Kanerva met with Secretary General Spencer Oliver and other senior staff of the Secretariat. The Secretary General presented an overview of the work of the International Secretariat.

A former Head of the Finnish Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and strong supporter of the Assembly's work, Minister Kanerva discussed the prospects for the Finnish 2008 Chairmanship. Discussions also addressed current challenges facing the Organization and co-operation between the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and other OSCE Institutions. Concern was expressed regarding co-operation in the field of election observation and the need for urgent improvement of OSCE work in this area.

The Minister indicated his hope and expectation that parliamentarians would play an even more active role during the Finnish Chairmanship next year, particularly in the fields of election observation and democratic development.



Secretary General Oliver welcomed Minister Kanerva to the Assembly headquarters

## Lenmarker Addresses OSCE Conference on Intolerance and Discrimination



OSCE/Susanne Looft

OSCE PA President Goran Lenmarker was welcomed by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos to the OSCE Chairmanship Conference on Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims, 9-10 October, in Cordoba, Spain. President Lenmarker gave a special intervention during the Plenary Session on 'Other active responses against Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims, including experiences from other communities.'

In his address, the President stressed the important work of parliamentarians in promoting integration, noting in particular the role of MPs as a link between civil society and government. Lenmarker also discussed education as a key to overcoming

intolerance, as well as the detrimental role of unemployment in this regard. The President stressed that freedom of expression remains an important value in open and tolerant societies. Finally, Mr. Lenmarker took the opportunity to advocate the inclusion of Turkey in the European Union.

The President was joined at the Conference by other Members of the Assembly, including Isabel Pozuelo, Head of the Spanish Delegation; Jesus Lopez-Medel, Chair of the OSCE PA Third Committee; Jose Perez Tapias (Spain); Wolfgang Grossruck, former OSCE PA Vice-President; and Karl Ollinger (Austria). Mr. Lenmarker was accompanied by Presidential Advisor Gustavo Pallares from the International Secretariat.

## OSCE PA Presidential Visit to United States

President Goran Lenmarker will visit Washington, DC next week. The visit, from October 17 to 19, will include an appearance before the Helsinki Commission at the U.S. Congress, addresses at the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars and the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and meetings with senior Members of Congress. The President will be accompanied by OSCE PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver, Director of Communications Klas Bergman and Secretary of Delegation Ann-Sofi Lindenbaum from the Swedish Parliament.