

## Special Representative for Central Asia visits Turkmenistan

Kimmo Kiljunen, OSCE PA Special Representative for Central Asia, visited Turkmenistan from 23 to 25 October 2007. The trip by Mr. Kiljunen, OSCE PA Vice-President and Member of the Finnish Parliament, was intended to encourage increased participation in Assembly activities by parliamentarians from the Central Asian OSCE State. Morten Hoeglund, Head of the Norwegian Delegation to the OSCE PA, also participated in the visit. The visit included meetings with the Speaker of the Mejlis (Parliament of Turkmenistan), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Institute of Democracy and Human Rights, as

well as briefings by the OSCE Centre in Ashgabad.

The OSCE PA plans to hold a series of seminars on Central Asian parliamentary co-operation in the coming months, organized in co-operation with the Nordic Council, OSCE missions and other international organizations. The first Seminar will take place in Oslo, 10-11 December 2007 and will focus on energy and the environment. In Ashgabad Mr. Kiljunen discussed the possibility of holding the next seminar in Turkmenistan in Spring 2008.

Programme Officer Anna Chernova from the International Secretariat accompanied the delegation on this visit.

## Roberto Battelli Participates in NATO Seminar

Roberto Battelli (Slovenia), OSCE PA Special Representative on South East Europe, participated in the NATO Parliamentary Assembly Rose Roth Seminar on Serbia's Future in Europe.

The seminar took place in the Parliament in Belgrade, Serbia, from 25 to 27 October. Some 60 parliamentarians from NATO and partner countries, together with a number of experts, discussed with government officials, international officials and opinion leaders from the Balkans major regional political

and security issues. There was discussion on issues including Kosovo, the Hague tribunal, West Balkans and Europe, and defense reform in Serbia. Frank and open discussions were held with high government and parliamentary officials from Serbia, with the ICTY Chief Prosecutor Carla del Ponte, and with the Norwegian Ambassador Kai Eide. Mr. Battelli was accompanied by Ambassador Andreas Nothelle from the Parliamentary Assembly's Vienna Liaison Office.

## Rapporteur of Third Committee Visits Assembly Headquarters

Walburga Habsburg-Douglas, Rapporteur of the OSCE PA Third General Committee and Head of the Swedish Delegation, visited the International Secretariat on 30 October. Ms. Habsburg-Douglas was in Copenhagen to discuss preparations for her report, to be presented at the Annual Session in Astana, in July 2008.

Ms. Habsburg-Douglas, who was accompanied by the Secretary of the Swedish Delegation Ann-Sofi Lindenbaum, met with Deputy Secretaries General Vitaly Evseyev and Tina Schøn and other staff. She was informed of the process for preparing Committee reports and was briefed on other ongoing OSCE PA activities.

Ms. Habsburg-Douglas (right) seen here with Ann-Sofi Lindenbaum and Andreas Baker, Programme Officer for the Third Committee

