

Lenmarker and Moratinos Encourage Settlement in Nagorno-Karabakh

The OSCE Chairman-in-Office and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly President strongly encouraged Azerbaijan and Armenia to reach an agreement on the peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict when they visited the two countries on Monday and Tuesday this week.

“There is now a golden opportunity for an agreement,” OSCE Chairman, Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos, and OSCE PA President Goran Lenmarker both stated during the visit.

Moratinos, who had asked Lenmarker to join him on the trip because of his extensive experience in the region, visited Baku on Monday and Yerevan on Tuesday. The Azeri and Armenian Presidents, Ilham Aliyev and Robert Kocharyan, will meet in St. Petersburg on Saturday, 9 June, to discuss the conflict.

An ongoing mediation effort by the OSCE Minsk Group Co-chairs, France, Russia and the U.S., has brought Armenia and Azerbaijan closer to a framework agreement on the basic principles for a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

Deputy Secretary General Tina Schøn accompanied Lenmarker on the visit.



President Lenmarker and Chairman-in-Office Moratinos

OSCE / Martin Nashir

Pan-African Parliament Delegation Visits Assembly Headquarters

On 31 May 2007, a delegation from the Pan-African Parliament (PAP), headed by Secretary General Murumba Werunga, visited the International Secretariat in Copenhagen. The delegation met with OSCE PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver and other senior staff to exchange experiences and discuss potential co-operation in the future. Secretary General Oliver outlined the functions and working methods of the OSCE PA. Members of the delegation were particularly interested in gaining insight with regard to the OSCE PA's leading role in election observation.

Similar to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the PAP is an Institution of the African Union with a consultative and advisory role to the Union.



Secretary General Werunga (centre), in Copenhagen

Kimmo Kiljunen participates in CIS Meeting

Finnish parliamentarian Kimmo Kiljunen represented the OSCE PA at the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly meeting in St. Petersburg on 31 May. Kiljunen addressed the Plenary Session of the meeting, which was chaired by Sergei Mironov, Chair of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly and Speaker of the Russian Federation Council and attended by Parliamentary Speakers from Belarus, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

Appointed by PA President Lenmarker to speak on behalf of the Assembly, Kiljunen highlighted the importance of parliamentary diplomacy in fostering regional security and co-operation. He mentioned the credibility that parliamentarians add to election observation in the OSCE area, including the need to observe in countries West as well as East of Vienna.

During his speech, Kiljunen highlighted the upcoming Session in Kyiv and the planned 2008 Session in Kazakhstan. He also noted that most OSCE PA Members support the 2009 bid by Kazakhstan to become Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE.

Deadlines Reminder

All delegations are reminded of the following deadlines, in preparation for the Annual Session in Kyiv:

- Thursday 14 June - Deadline for submission of Supplementary Items
- Thursday 21 June - Deadline for submission of amendments to Draft Resolutions
- Thursday 28 June - Deadline for submission of amendments to Supplementary Items