

Bruce George Addresses OSCE Permanent Council

On 3 September 2003, OSCE PA President Bruce George delivered his second address to the OSCE Permanent Council. In his speech, Mr. George informed the Permanent Council about the Rotterdam Declaration on "The Role of the OSCE in the New Architecture of Europe", which was adopted during the Assembly's 12th Annual Session.

He expressed the hope that the governments of the OSCE participating States, and the OSCE itself, will pay due attention to the conclusions and recommendations adopted in Rotterdam.

In his address, President George also gave an overview of recent and upcoming Assembly activities, as well as an outline of the main priorities of his Presidency. "As President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assem-



bly for the coming year, it is my intention to continue working for the development of the Parliamentary Assembly as a reliable partner contributing to the success of the OSCE," said Mr. Bruce.

He vowed to build on the progress of his five predecessors. "I will continue to develop our programme of OSCE Field Mission visits, continue

to provide parliamentary leadership for election monitoring projects, continue to support the work of our ad hoc committees dealing with specific critical problems, continue to strengthen the dialogue between and among our own parliamentarians through the organisation of our meetings and conferences, and – most importantly – make every effort to increase the co-operation between the governmental structures of the OSCE and the more than three hundred elected parliamentarians that provide the OSCE with a firm democratic foundation."

Finally, the President underlined that the Assembly contributes increased the visibility of the OSCE among its citizens, while improving understanding of the important tasks the OSCE carries out.

Lisbon Conference on Terrorism

Bruce George, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, participated in the Second Lisbon Meeting on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, organised by the Portuguese Foreign Ministry and held in the Portuguese capital on 1 and 2 September.

This meeting followed up on the discussions and conclusions of the first Lisbon meeting held in June 2002 within the Portuguese Chairmanship of the OSCE. The Lisbon Meeting analysed the possibilities for enhancing the implementation of the existing OSCE mechanisms in the prevention and combating of terrorism and helped identify and develop new initiatives, thus fostering international co-operation in this fight.

Mr. George Chaired the session of the Conference devoted to Terrorism and Regional Security. In his presentation, the President of the Parliamentary Assem-

bly focused on the lessons learned in the aftermath of the 11 September terrorist attacks. He addressed the difficulties faced by States in deterring terrorist networks, something that cannot be achieved with the traditional methods of deterrence.

He also referred to the importance of the private security sector in the fight against terrorism and emphasised that enhanced co-operation amongst international organisations is also essential to succeed in this fight.

As well, he addressed the important initiatives taken by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, mainly the Berlin Declaration of 2002 devoted to the fight against terrorism.

He concluded by stating that the fight against terrorism should not, in any way, undermine the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Parliamentarians to Observe Azerbaijani and Georgian elections

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly will deploy Members as international observers to the 15 October presidential elections in Azerbaijan as well as to the 2 November parliamentary elections in Georgia. Registration forms for the Azerbaijani elections should be received by the Secretariat no later than 1 October 2003.

The deadline for registrations for the mission to Georgia is 15 October 2003. More information will be circulated soon by Programme Officer Tina Schøn, who is responsible for organising both of these election-monitoring missions.

New Research Fellows Arrive

On 1 September the following new Research Fellows joined the International Secretariat: Philippe Martinez (France), Maya Segas (Canada/Sweden) Brunella Antoni (Italy), Alfonso Luis Feijoo Gonzalez (Spain) and Per Martin Martinsen (Norway).