

Appointments

tribute to the “strong contribution” of Ambassador Strohal, who has been serving in the post since March 2003.

Ambassador Lenarčič, 41, has an extensive knowledge of OSCE affairs. From 2003 to 2006, he served as Ambassador and Head of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the OSCE. In 2005, when his country held the OSCE’s rotating Chairmanship, he chaired the Permanent Council, the Organization’s regular political decision-making body.

“I am honoured and delighted to have received the support of the participating States. It feels good to return to the OSCE family,” said Ambassador Lenarčič from the Government Office for European Affairs in Ljubljana.

At the same time, he added, “I am fully aware of the tremendous responsibilities that the position entails, and of the many challenges that lie ahead. The ODIHR is the central institution that deals with the OSCE’s human dimension. Its role has steadily evolved and has been strengthened since its inception. With the support of the participating States,

the Chairmanship, the Secretary General and, most of all, the fine ODIHR team, I hope to build on the solid legacy of my predecessors, to further consolidate the integrity of the Office and to continue developing its important activities.”

Earlier, Ambassador Lenarčič was posted to the Permanent Mission of Slovenia to the United Nations in New York (1994-1999) and served as Alternate Representative of Slovenia on the UN Security Council (1998-1999). He then moved to the Office of the Prime Minister (2001-2003), first as Diplomatic Adviser, and later on, as State Secretary.

After his Vienna assignment, he was appointed State Secretary for European Affairs in 2006, heading the working group for the preparation of the Slovenian Presidency of the EU (January to June 2008) and, subsequently, assuming responsibility for co-operation between the Presidency and the European Parliament.

Ambassador Lenarčič joined the Foreign Ministry in 1992 after earning a degree in international law from Ljubljana University.



SLOVENIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICE FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

Janez Lenarčič, State Secretary for European Affairs in Slovenia, has been appointed Director of the OSCE’s Warsaw-based Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). He takes over from Christian Strohal of Austria on 1 July.

Welcoming the appointment, the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Finnish Foreign Minister Alexander Stubb, took the opportunity to pay

L’ubomír Kopaj, a Slovakian diplomat, assumed the position of OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine on 21 April, succeeding James E. Schumaker of the United States.

He has served as Ambassador of Slovakia to the Netherlands (1997-2000) and Director General of his Foreign Ministry’s Section for

Administration, Logistics and Information (2002-2003). Most recently, he was an expert in the Analysis and Foreign Policy Planning Department (2003-March 2008).

“My first priorities are to improve the managerial structure of the office, increase the transparency of our activities vis-à-vis the Secretariat and participating States, and draw our hosts closer to the preparatory and evaluation

phases of our projects,” said Ambassador Kopaj. “We still have a lot of useful work to do for the benefit of the Ukrainian people.”

Ambassador Kopaj’s involvement in OSCE issues started when he was a member of the Czechoslovakian delegation to the Conference of the Conference on Security and Co-operation (CSCE) in Stockholm in 1984. Later on, he took part in the CSCE follow-up meeting and in the CSCE Summit in Helsinki in 1992.

Between 2003 and 2007, he either led or took part in a number of election observation missions of the OSCE’s Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, mostly in Central Asia but also in countries ranging from Bosnia and Herzegovina to Belgium.

Born in Bratislava, Ambassador Kopaj attended the Moscow State Institute of International Relations and pursued post-graduate diplomatic studies at the University of Birmingham’s School of International Studies and Social Sciences.



OSCE/MICHAEL EVSTAFIEV

French diplomat Alexandre Keltchewsky took up his assignment as Head of the OSCE Centre in Astana on 9 June. He succeeded Ivar Kristian Vikki of Norway.

Prior to his appointment, he served as Special Counsellor to the Director General of *France Coopération Internationale*, an agency set up by the Foreign Ministry to promote French technical expertise in governance, human rights and anti-corruption activities, including institutional capacity-building.

"This is a challenging position to assume, in the light of Kazakhstan's Chairmanship of the OSCE in 2010," Ambassador Keltchewsky said. "It's also a fascinating assignment for a diplomat such as myself whose focus of interest has always been on strengthening East-West relations and building a more stable, democratic and prosperous Europe."

Ambassador Keltchewsky started his career in banking, later joining the French Finance Ministry, where he was assigned to Moscow and New Delhi as Chief Economist with the Trade Commission (1976-1983).

Moving to the French Foreign Ministry, he headed the unit responsible for economic and technical co-operation with East European countries (1984-1986). Overseas postings in Belgrade, Rabat and Moscow followed (1986-1995). During his stint in Rabat, he was temporarily seconded to the European Community Monitor Mission in former Yugoslavia, based in Zagreb.



On his return to Paris, he served as Director of the Foreign Ministry's OSCE and Council of Europe Affairs Division, where he was actively involved in the stabilization process in the Balkan countries within the Royaumont Initiative.

After serving as French Consul-General in Saint Petersburg (1998-2002), he was appointed Inspector at the Office of the Inspector General of the Foreign Ministry (2002-2006).

Born in Paris to a family of Russian émigrés, Ambassador Keltchewsky holds degrees from the University of Paris-Nanterre in economic sciences, specializing in the Soviet economy, and in Russian.



Andrew Tesoriere, an experienced British and United Nations diplomat, assumed the position of Head of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek on 23 May. He succeeded Markus Mueller, a Swiss national.

"I am new to Kyrgyzstan but not to the wider region," said Ambassador Tesoriere, who has served as bilateral ambassador to Algeria (2005-2007), Latvia (2002-2005) and Albania (1995-1998), and has an intimate knowledge of Afghanistan.

"My first priority is to listen and to understand the Kyrgyz context and the diversity of views," he said. "Fortunately, Kyrgyzstan and the OSCE already have an

excellent working relationship. With the help of a good and experienced team, I will aim to ensure that our activities remain effective and relevant."

In Afghanistan, Ambassador Tesoriere was Head of Humanitarian Field Operations, UNOCHA (1994-1995) and Director of the UN Special Mission (1998-2000). He chaired the intra-Afghan peace talks in Ashgabad in March 1999. He was a senior OSCE observer at Afghan elections in 2004 and 2005. At the time of his OSCE appointment, he was serving as senior NATO adviser in Afghanistan.

Having served as an Alternate Executive Director at the African Development Bank (1981-1984), he has had wide-ranging experience in working on programmes focusing on business and economic development, governance, climate and energy security, counter-terrorism, law-enforcement and the fight against corruption.

Ambassador Tesoriere graduated in international relations and Russian from the University of Wales and completed post-graduate studies at the Universities of London and Cambridge and the *École Nationale d'Administration* in Paris. He is fluent in French and has a knowledge of Russian, Spanish, Albanian, Latvian, Arabic, Farsi, Dari and Pushtu.