

Jose-Luis Herrero Ansola took up his post as **Head of the OSCE Office in Baku** on 3 February 2007. He succeeds Ambassador Maurizio Pavesi of Italy.

"I believe that the OSCE can make a significant contribution to stability and further democratization in the region through its offices in the field, the specialized assistance of its institutions, and the Chairmanship," Ambassador Herrero said upon his appointment.

He reaffirmed the Organization's commitment to assist Azerbaijan through a wide range of activities including police training, diversification of the economy, legislative reform, monitoring of trials, facilitation of political dialogue and support to civil society organizations.

Prior to joining the OSCE, Ambassador Herrero, a Spanish national, was Director-General of FRIDE, an independent Madrid-based research institute which works towards peace and security, democratization, development



OSCE/MIKHAIL LEVSTAFEV

and human rights.

Between 1992 and 2003, he served in successive assignments in the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), the UN Spokesman's Office in Geneva, the UN Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda, and the UN Civilian Police Mission in Haiti in areas related to political and civil affairs, human rights and the media.

In 1994 and 1995, he was a press officer for the Americas and Europe at the Secretariat of Amnesty International in London.

He holds a master's degree in public administration from Harvard University and a master of arts degree in political science and sociology from the Universidad Complutense (Madrid).

Giorgio Radicati, an Italian career diplomat, has succeeded Carlos Pais of Portugal as **Head of the OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje**.



OSCE/MIKHAIL LEVSTAFEV

"The Mission will continue to work closely with the country's energetic and dedicated leaders and citizens, as well as with the staff of various institutions at all levels," Ambassador Radicati said. "Our focus will be on supporting the completion of the decentralization process and maintaining the momentum of reforms in the judicial system, the police and public administration."

He was his country's ambassador to the Czech Republic from 2003 to 2006 and served as its consul-general in New York from 1998 to 2003. Earlier diplomatic postings included Geneva, Rio de Janeiro, Brasilia, Washington, D.C., and Ankara. In Rome, he once served at the Directorate-General for Cultural Relations.

A graduate in law of the University of Rome, Ambassador Radicati assumed his OSCE post in December 2006.

A stirring plea to save the planet

"An Inconvenient Truth", the highly acclaimed documentary about climate change, was shown in two special screenings for the OSCE community in Vienna on 6 March. More than 350 representatives of OSCE delegations and staff members flocked to the "must-see" movie of the year, which has been reaping awards, including an Oscar (Academy Award) for best documentary.

Part of a series of events aimed at raising awareness of environmental concerns, the initiative was sponsored by the Spanish Chairmanship in co-operation with the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities.

"An Inconvenient Truth", directed by Davis Guggenheim, builds on a slide show on global warming that former U.S. Vice President Al Gore had been taking on the road for several years. Mr. Gore presents compelling scientific evidence that irresponsible human activity and narrow interests have taken an irreparable toll on the ecosystem.

His crusade is an impassioned appeal to governments and individual citizens to do their part to prevent greenhouse gas emissions from wreaking even more havoc on world temperatures — likely leading to even more extreme weather, disappearing glaciers, acidic oceans, devastating floods and droughts, major epidemics and killer heat waves.

"Should we be preparing for other threats besides terrorists?" Mr. Gore asks. "This is not so much a political issue as a moral one."

"Images often make us better appreciate the severity of the prob-

lem than texts and speeches ever could," said Spanish Ambassador Carlos Sánchez de Boado, Chairman of the Permanent Council. "It was good for us to see how global warming links up with security, migration and development."

The Spanish Chairmanship has chosen issues surrounding land degradation, soil contamination and water management as the theme of this year's Economic and Environmental Forum, the second part of which will be held in Prague from 21 to 23 May. The first part was held in Vienna earlier this year, with preparatory meetings held in Bishkek and Zaragoza.

"The film had no dull moments, moved at just the right tempo and was a good mix of science, humour and personal touches. I learned a lot," said Swiss Ambassador Rudolf Schaller.

In Spain, as in many other countries, government authorities are making "An Inconvenient Truth" available for viewing in all schools. Mr. Gore has been nominated for this year's Prince of Asturias Prize for international co-operation.

— Philip Reuchlin

