

Göran Lenmarker, a member of the Swedish parliament since 1991, was elected **President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly** at its Fifteenth Annual Session, held in Brussels from 3 to 7 July.

“My election came at an interesting time, what with the recent accession of the Republic of Montenegro to the OSCE,” Mr. Lenmarker said. “The welcoming of the 56th participating State into the Organization is the perfect occasion to reinvigorate our dialogue.”

He said he intended to seize the opportunity to promote a wider discussion of OSCE issues beyond its own institutions. “I believe that reaching out to academic and public-interest groups can bring great benefits,” he said.

Mr. Lenmarker noted that the parliamentary input, with its roots in democratic principles, had helped infuse fresh ideas into the OSCE.

The participation of parliamentarians in election-monitoring, “one of the most relevant activities of the OSCE”, would continue to be encouraged under his leadership. “As elected officials, we in the Assembly have a unique expertise in the electoral process, and a particular interest in strengthening democratic processes,” he said.



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Mr. Lenmarker chairs the Swedish Parliament’s Committee on the Constitution. He was a member of the EU Convention on the future of Europe, and was a delegate to the United Nations General Assembly.

Within the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly itself, he has served three terms as Chairman of the General Committee on Political Affairs and Security, and was Special Representative on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

“Parliamentarians have an important role to play in supporting the OSCE’s conflict-resolution efforts,” he said. “These conflicts are not ‘frozen’: people are suffering and will continue to suffer unless solutions are found. Parliamentary dialogue can complement official negotiations and lay the groundwork for lasting peace on a democratic footing.”

Mr. Lenmarker paid tribute to his predecessor, U.S. Congressman Alcee Hastings, who will serve as President Emeritus of the Assembly. “I’m fortunate that the ship he left me to steer is in excellent condition, with an experienced and professional Secretariat in Copenhagen and Vienna to support the Assembly’s work.”

Secretariat’s Department of Human Resources starting 7 August. He had served as the Department’s Deputy Director and Chief of Recruitment since November 2002.

Prior to joining the OSCE, Mr. Belyaev was a senior diplomat in the Russian Federation’s foreign service. He served as Ambassador to New Zealand (1995 to 1999) and was assigned to several postings in Africa, including Angola.

High-level positions in Moscow included Deputy Director in the Foreign Ministry’s Personnel Department (1999-2002) and Deputy Secretary-General (1992-1995).

A graduate of the Moscow State Institute of International Relations, Mr. Belyaev also studied economics and finance, as well as human resource management at the Diplomatic Academy in Moscow.



OSCE/MIKHAIL EVSTAFIEV

Sergei Belyaev has assumed the position of **Director of the OSCE**

Louis F. O’Neill, a U.S. lawyer and specialist in Russian affairs, succeeded William H. Hill as **Head of the OSCE Mission to Moldova** on 21 July.



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“Moldova is a fascinating country, and the residents on both banks of the river deserve a better future,” Ambassador O’Neill said. “My team and I will do our best to help them settle the Transdniestrian problem and to strengthen democracy, rule of law, and freedom of the media in Moldova.”

Prior to his appointment, Ambassador O’Neill was on the Policy Planning Staff of the U.S. State Department, where he was responsible for helping develop U.S. long-term policy towards the Russian Federation as well as towards Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

He spent several years in Moscow in the 1990s, where he was closely involved in Russian affairs: as a Fulbright Presidential Scholar at Moscow State University, as a journalist at the *Moscow Times*, and as a team member in a legal reform project sponsored by the Harvard Institute for International Development.

On his return to the United States, he worked for the law firm White & Case in New York and was later appointed an Assistant District Attorney in the Special Prosecutions Bureau of the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office.

As a White House Fellow in 2004-2005, Ambassador O’Neill served as Special Assistant to the Secretary of State, assigned to the Office of Russian Affairs.

A graduate of the Harvard Law School, he also holds a B.A. in Slavic Languages and Literatures and a master’s degree in Russian and East European Studies from Stanford University. He is a Term Member of the Council on Foreign Relations.