

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe

Belgian delegation

Brussels, 7 January 2009

Dear Colleague,

A parliamentary year has come to an end in which our Assembly played an active and strong key role. 2008 was a year of important choices, of difficult and troubled moments: the Parliamentary Assembly went through that period in a profitable way, opening real perspectives of dialogue.

The OSCE shows its usefulness, its Assembly is creative and lives up to the role it is expected to play.

Confronted with the financial and energy crisis, and more generally, with the future of peace and stability, the OSCE has more than ever a *raison d'être*.

As Members of Parliament we can convince our governments of its importance and persuade them to make the right choice : strengthening the OSCE instead of weakening it.

I was very pleased to hear that like President João SOARES you expressed concern about the health problems I had during the ministerial OSCE meeting in Helsinki.

I underwent such a high-quality medical treatment in Finland that I'm already in a good work capacity. I would like to thank you all for your friendly words and wish you and our Assembly a happy new year.



Anne-Marie LIZIN
Vice President of the OSCE PA