



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
The Representative on Freedom of the Media**

19 September 2005

Human Dimension Implementation Meeting  
Opening Session

Speaking Notes

This implementation meeting is taking place in the 30th year of the Helsinki process.

There have been quite a number of official and civil anniversary commemorations. I have participated in some of them, and noted the tributes paid to the merits of the beginnings of the unique process which in the early nineties led to the formation of OSCE.

Obviously, the intergovernmental commemorations, in a stately manner, focused on the wisdom of the signing governments; the bravery of starting the process at all, and of having a human rights basket in the original agreements.

Then, a month ago, here in Warsaw and in Gdansk, we came together with a lot of old friends from Poland, the former Czechoslovakia and the former Soviet Union – thank God, many of us were still in a huggable shape. The Solidarity movement was identified by many speakers as the first victory of the principles of the third basket of Helsinki.

Unavoidably, there was a self-congratulatory tone even in these civil commemorations. Indeed, personal bravery and civil courage was needed and will always be needed to start to demand from the governments to live up to their international commitments.

But little attention was paid to the fact that OSCE is not simply a direct continuation of the Helsinki process, but it is also a necessary improvement of it. And I consider the Warsaw Human Dimension Implementation Meeting to be the best embodiment of those improvements that the OSCE brought to the process.

In fact, my generation was not only pleased by the Helsinki process but also felt that several basic dimensions were painfully missing from its famous baskets.

Helsinki did not acknowledge the necessity of having free and fair elections in a pluralistic political environment.

Helsinki did not acknowledge the principle that only a free press can guarantee the access of all players to all citizens, and the access of all citizens to all information about their government.

Not only the rights of the majorities were missing from the original Helsinki agreements; neither were the rights of the minorities acknowledged.

In line with these deficiencies, the Helsinki agreement did not empower civil society to play an equal part in the fulfilment and control of the commitments along with governments.

In short, Helsinki did not yet acknowledge democracy. The by now 55 participating States have done so in the early 90s, by incorporating the above principles in the foundations of OSCE.

OSCE created three independent, autonomous institutions to safeguard these new commitments. With the creation of these institutions, the participating States acknowledged that the security of the northern hemisphere can be maintained only by maintaining democracy.

That is why I consider the Warsaw Meetings of OSCE's Human Dimension the guarantor of security and peace.

This is why we expect the ongoing reform of OSCE to strengthen, rather than weaken the institutions of the third basket.

I expect the discussions among participating States, the OSCE Institutions, and the NGOs to prove that the 10<sup>th</sup> HDIM will only be a new beginning.