



Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting

Freedoms of Peaceful Assembly and Association, with Emphasis on Freedom of Association

16 – 17 April 2015

Hofburg, Vienna

General Guidelines

1. Aim of the Meeting

According to the decision of the Permanent Council (PC.DEC/476, 23 May 2002), each year, the Chairman-in-Office organizes three informal Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings (SHDMs), in the framework of the Permanent Council, in order to discuss key substantive concerns raised at the previous Human Dimension Meetings or Review Conferences. The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) as well as other OSCE institutions assist the Chairman-in-Office in preparing the SHDMs.

The first Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting in 2015 will address the topic of Freedoms of Peaceful Assembly and Association, with Emphasis on Freedom of Association. The meeting will provide a forum for discussion on how the freedoms of peaceful assembly and association contribute to achieving democracy and human security. The topics will include a human security approach to freedoms of peaceful assembly and association, non-discrimination and the freedoms of peaceful assembly and association and enhancing the participation of associations in public decision-making processes. The discussion will focus on the role of the OSCE participating States and other actors in safeguarding and promoting relevant OSCE commitments.

Recommendations may be addressed to participating States, the OSCE at large, OSCE institutions, including the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, OSCE field operations, other inter-governmental or non-governmental organizations, as well as other civil society actors in OSCE participating States.

Additional information relevant to the SHDM, including the annotated agenda can be found on the ODIHR website at <https://www.osce.org/odihr/144086>

2. Participation

Representatives of OSCE participating States, OSCE institutions, and OSCE executive structures, representatives of inter-governmental organizations, representatives of non-governmental organizations, and other civil society actors will participate in the SHDM. The Partners for Co-operation are invited to attend and contribute with respect to their co-operation and links with the OSCE in the field. Civil Society organizations can find more information in the document 'Information for Civil Society'.

3. Registration

On-line registration for all participants is available at <http://meetings.odihr.pl>. Participants are advised to **register by Wednesday, 25 March 2015**

The registration will also be available online after the deadline and during the Meeting on the spot, however, to facilitate the preparation for the meeting, (e.g. preparation of badges and printing of sufficient amount of materials) the earliest possible registration would be highly appreciated. Registered participants will be able to collect their badges as of Thursday, 16 April 2015 from 09:00 in the main entrance hall of the Hofburg Congress Centre. Those participants who experience problems with registration are requested to contact Ms. Anna Sierant (contact details below).

4. Modalities

The modalities of the meeting are set out in accordance with the decision of the Permanent Council (PC.DEC/476, 23 May 2002).

The meeting will take place in the Hofburg Congress Centre. It will start on Thursday, 16 April, at 15.00 with an opening session and will be followed by three working sessions. The closing session will finish on Friday, 17 April at 17.30.

The Meeting will be interpreted into the six official OSCE languages: English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish.

5. Side events

Side events may be held over the course of two days during the SHDM. Participants wishing to organize a side event should send the side events' checklist **by 8 April 2015 to Mr. Ireneusz Stepinski**, ODIHR at Ireneusz.Stepinski@odihr.pl. Additional information on the content and objectives of any side event, as well as timing and duration are available on the SHDM website, in the 'Side events check-list' document.

6. Guidelines for the Debates

The intention is to develop a free-flowing discussion based on the keynote speeches, panellists' inputs, discussions, background information and written statements circulated in advance or during the SHDM. To this end, a list of speakers is not envisaged in the course of the SHDM and interventions in the form of prepared statements are discouraged. Prepared statements, background documentation, comments or written materials may be submitted in advance for circulation by the Documents Distribution Centre and hence can feed the discussion.

In case of any questions, please contact:

Substantive content matters: Ms. Nathalie Tagwerker, ODIHR at Nathalie.Tagwerker@odihr.pl or +48 22 5200 164

Registration of participants: Ms. Anna Sierant, ODIHR at Anna.Sierant@odihr.pl or +48 22 5200 627

Organizational matters and organization of side events: Mr. Ireneusz Stepinski, ODIHR at Ireneusz.Stepinski@odihr.pl or +48 22 52 00 658