



Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

8-9 November 2012

Hofburg, Vienna

General Guidelines

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

1. Aim of the Meeting

This Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting (SHDM) will seek to address how the full implementation of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association can be advanced and protected to promote an inclusive and diverse democratic society. It will identify the challenges faced by the OSCE participating States and discuss how they can be met, in order to ensure the full enjoyment of these freedoms. The SHDM will devote particular attention to how new technologies influence the enjoyment of the freedoms of peaceful assembly and association. The SHDM will also provide a forum for discussing those extremely limited circumstances in which the exercise of these rights may be restricted in accordance with the relevant international standards and commitments.

The meeting will address the topic through the following three sessions:

- Freedom of Association: obstacles to the full realization of this right and ways to overcome them;
- Freedom of Peaceful Assembly: new challenges and opportunities for dialogue;
- Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and Association: the role of new technologies.

Recommendations may be addressed to participating States, 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 civil society actors in OSCE participating States. Additional information relevant to the SHDM can be found on ODIHR website at <http://www.osce.org/odihr/93722>.

The OSCE/ODIHR, with the support of the Irish Chairmanship, plans to hold a one-day Civil Society Forum on 7 November 2012, ahead of the SHDM. At this Forum, civil society participants will be able to identify common challenges, share good practices on the topics addressed by the SHDM and formulate concrete recommendations to the OSCE participating

States, and the OSCE, including its institutions and field operations. More information on the Forum is available at <http://www.osce.org/odihr/94459>.

2. Participation

Representatives of OSCE participating States, OSCE Institutions, and OSCE field operations, representatives of international 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.

3. Guidelines for the Debates

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

4. Organization

On-line registration for all participants is available at <http://meetings.odihr.pl>. Participants wishing to attend are requested to register by **Wednesday, 24 October 2012**. Registered participants will be able to collect their badges as of Tuesday, 6 November 2012, from 15:00 in the main entrance hall of the Hofburg Congress Centre. Registration during the Meeting is available at the same location.

In case of any questions, please contact:

Substantive content matters: Ms. Nathalie Tagwerker, Deputy Head of the Democratization Department at Nathalie.Tagwerker@odihr.pl or 48 22 52 00 695 and Mr. Omer Fisher, Deputy Head of the Human Rights Department at Omer.Fisher@odihr.pl or 48 22 52 00 749.

Organizational matters: Ms. Saida Manieva at Saida.Manieva@odihr.pl or + 48 22 52 00 657

Registration: Ms. Anna Sierant at Anna.Sierant@odihr.pl or + 48 22 52 00 627

Organization of side events: Mr. Ireneusz Stepinski at Ireneusz.Stepinski@odihr.pl or +48 22 52 00 658.

5. Other

Side events may be held over the course of two days during the SHDM. Additional information on the content and objectives of any side event, as well as timing and duration is available on the SHDM website.