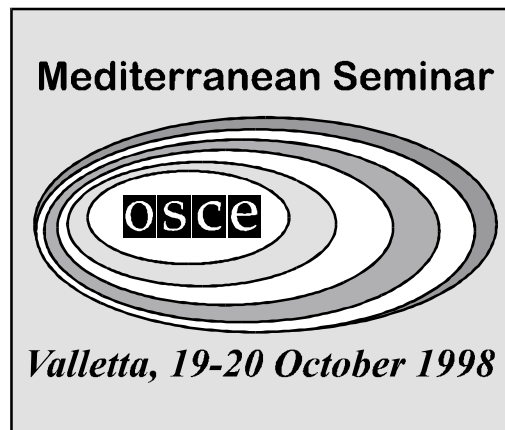




Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

The Secretariat

Department for General Affairs



**OSCE MEDITERRANEAN SEMINAR ON
THE HUMAN DIMENSION OF SECURITY, PROMOTING
DEMOCRACY AND THE RULE OF LAW**

Valletta, Malta, 19-20 October 1998

Consolidated Summary

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I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. VENUE

The Seminar was held from 19 to 20 October 1998 at the Radisson SAS Bay Point Resort, Malta.

2. PARTICIPATION

2.1 Twenty-eight OSCE participating States took part in the Seminar.

2.2 The Mediterranean partners for co-operation were represented by Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan and Tunisia. From the invited partners for co-operation, the Republic of Korea was represented.

2.3 The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly was invited to participate in and contribute to the Seminar and was represented by a member of the Hungarian Parliament.

2.4 From the invited international organizations and institutions, the following were represented: the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Council of Europe, the Western European Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Mediterranean Forum.

2.5 Representatives of non-governmental organizations were able to attend and contribute to the Seminar in accordance with the relevant OSCE provisions and practices.

3. TIMETABLE AND ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES

3.1 The Seminar began at 9:30 a.m. (opening statements) on 19 October 1998 and ended at 6.30 p.m. on 20 October 1998.

3.2 The Seminar was conducted in three working sessions and a panel discussion.

3.3 The opening and closing sessions were chaired by a representative of the Chairman-in-Office.

3.4 Each session had a moderator and rapporteur.

3.5 In the panel discussion representatives of the following Organizations took part: European Union/Barcelona Process, European Commission, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Council of Europe, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

3.6 The working languages were English and at the request of several States interpretation was also provided from and into French.

- 3.7 Arrangements for press coverage were made.
- 3.8 Local transportation was arranged by the host country.
- 3.9 Other rules of procedure and working methods of the OSCE were applied, *mutatis mutandis*, to the Seminar.
- 3.10 The seating arrangement is shown in the Annex.

4. AGENDA

Monday, 19 October 1998

Opening Statements

Chair: Mr. Jerzy Wieclaw, Representative of the **OSCE Chairman-in-Office**

9.30 a.m. Opening Address by Prof. Guido de Marco, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, **Malta**

Statement by Ambassador Giancarlo Aragona, **OSCE Secretary General**

“From Lisbon to Oslo: Security Model Discussion in the OSCE. The Human Dimension Aspect” – Statement by Mr. Jerzy Wieclaw, Representative of the **OSCE Chairman-in-Office**

The opening was covered by the media

Session 1

Morning Session: The Human Dimension of Security

Moderator: Ambassador Marianne von Grünigen, **Switzerland**

Rapporteur: Mr. Ömer Tüzel, **Turkey**

10. 00 a.m. 1. *“Dialogue between the OSCE and the Mediterranean partners for co-operation: the Human Dimension”* – Statement by Ambassador Kai Eide, **Norway**
2. *“The Importance of the Human Dimension for Creating a Common Security Space”*
- Statement by Ambassador Victor F. Isakov, **Russian Federation;**
 - Statement by Mr. Markus Cornaro, **Austria/European Union**
 - Statement by Mr. Géza Andreas von Geyr, **European Commission**

11.15 - Coffee break

11.45 a.m.

3. *“Preventing Threats to the Human Dimension Aspect of Security”* – Statement by Mr. Chadwick Gore, **US Helsinki Commission**
4. *“Religious Confidence-Building Measures”* – Statement by Mr. Walid Kreishan, **Jordan**
5. *“Promotion of Cultural Understanding. Exchange of Experiences over Cultural Differences between Peoples to the North and South of the Mediterranean: Working towards Promoting Mutual Understanding in the Area of Cultural particularities”* – Statement by Professor Saad Eddin Ibrahim, **Egypt**

Discussion

1 p.m. Reception hosted by Ambassador Giancarlo Aragona, OSCE Secretary General, at the Radisson SAS Hotel

Session 2

Afternoon Session: Promoting Democracy

Moderator: Ambassador Giancarlo Aragona, **OSCE Secretary General**
Ambassador Antonio Cosano, **Spain**

Rapporteur: Mr. Alexander Ehrlich-Adam, **Austria**

- 3 p.m.
1. *“Free Elections: Basis for a Democratic Society”* – Statement by Ms. Sandra Mitchell, **ODIHR**
 2. *“The Human Dimension Aspect of OSCE Missions”* – Statement by Ambassador Robert L. Barry, Head of the **OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Discussion

4 - 4.30 p.m. Coffee break

3. *“The Role of Freedom of the Media”*
– Statement by Mr. Freimuth Duve, **OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media;**
– Statement by Professor Yoram Peri, **Israel**

Discussion

Tuesday, 20 October 1998

Session 3

Morning Session: The Rule of Law

Moderator: Professor Giuseppe Nesi, **Italy**

Rapporteur: Mr. Mario Horvatic, **Croatia**

9 a.m. 1. *“The Rule of Law: International Commitments and National Institutions”* – Statement by the Hon. Justice Dr. Joseph A. Filletti, **Malta**

2. *“The Legislative Frameworks for NGO Activity”*
– Statement by Mr. Andras Bársony, Member of the Hungarian Delegation to the **OSCE Parliamentary Assembly**
– Statement by Ambassador Abdessalem Hetira, **Tunisia**

11 - 11.30 a.m. Coffee break

3. *“The Role of Information and Education with regard to the Rule of Law”* – Statement by Ms. Fifi Benaboud, **Council of Europe**

Discussion

1 p.m. End of Session 3 – Lunch break

Session 4

Afternoon Session: Panel Discussion: *The Role of International Organizations in the Human Dimension of Security in the Mediterranean*

Moderator: Ambassador Christos Th. Botzios, **Greece**

Rapporteur: Ms. Jacqueline O’Halloran-Bernstein, **Ireland**

3 p.m. **European Union/Barcelona Process:** Mr. Karsten Warnecke, Germany
European Commission: Mr. Kyriakos Revelas
UN High Commissioner for Refugees: Mr. Werner Blatter, Regional Representative in Vienna

Council of Europe: Ms. Fifi Benaboud
ODIHR: Ms. Sandra Michell, Rule of Law Adviser

4 - 4.30 p.m. Coffee break

Discussion

5.30 p.m. End of Session 4

Closing Session

5.45 p.m. Summaries of Sessions by Rapporteurs

Concluding Remarks by Mr. Jerzy Wieclaw, Representative of the **OSCE
Chairman-in-Office**

6.30 p.m. End of Seminar

8 p.m. Reception hosted by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign
Affairs, Professor Guido de Marco, at the Palazzo Parisio, Valletta.

II. SUMMARIES BY RAPPORTEURS

Session 1

The Human Dimension of Security

Report by Mr. Ömer Tüzel, Turkey

During the session, the various presentations reflected on the dialogue between the OSCE and the Mediterranean partners for co-operation within the context of the Human Dimension, the importance of the Human Dimension for creating a common security space, threats to the Human Dimension aspect of security, as well as ways to prevent such threats, religious confidence-building measures (CBMs) and the promotion of cultural understanding as a means of confidence-building.

In the presentation relating to the dialogue between the OSCE and the Mediterranean partners for co-operation (MPCs), it was stressed that the OSCE's Human Dimension has been a long process, with the flexibility of the Organization allowing it to adapt and take on new roles in line with the new challenges. The Human Dimension had gained stronger emphasis within the Organization over the past years. Investing in the Human Dimension in areas with a potential threat to stability was a more cost-effective method of dealing with crisis situations than subsequent military intervention. The speaker emphasized that the OSCE was increasingly dedicated to creating the necessary tools to enhance the Human Dimension, adding that this new OSCE era in the Human Dimension should also be reflected in the relationship with the Mediterranean partners for co-operation, whereby the latter became "Partner States" in the true sense of the word, rather than "Non-participating States". In this light, the "Contact Group" with the Mediterranean partners for co-operation and the decisions taken within the OSCE to invite the representatives of the Mediterranean partners for co-operation to send observer teams to elections observed by the ODIHR, as well as to send delegations to study the work of OSCE missions were manifestations of the new era of active co-operation and partnership with the Mediterranean partners for co-operation. These States were encouraged to take advantage of the new opportunities. It was further pointed out that these new opportunities indicated both a qualitative as well as quantitative change in the relations. It was concluded that fundamental Human Rights constituted the common foundation for the relationship between the OSCE and the Mediterranean partners for co-operation. The Mediterranean partners for co-operation could thereby draw from the experience of the OSCE in the Human Dimension in a manner consistent with and conducive to their own respective models.

In discussing the importance of the Human Dimension for creating a common security space, the unique role of the OSCE in uniting its participating States around common values was quoted in an example. The Human Dimension in all its aspects, one speaker pointed out, remained fundamental to the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security, the maintenance of peace and stability being closely linked to the respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law. According to this speaker, the Human Dimension aspect of security incorporated, among others, such elements as the strengthening of democratic institutions, respect for the rule of law, the

right of assembly and freedom of expression, free and fair elections, the strengthening of a genuine inter-cultural dialogue, the protection of the rights of minorities, effectively addressing manifestations of intolerance, aggressive nationalism, racism, chauvinism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism, as well as gender issues. The speaker also pointed out that the OSCE had a number of institutions and tools at its disposal to further its work in the Human Dimension such as the ODIHR, HCNM, OSCE field missions and the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media. Another speaker underlined the adverse effects of crises which had their root causes in the non-implementation of Human Dimension commitments, on all OSCE States, irrespective of their development, citing several recent examples in the OSCE area. According to this speaker, problems faced by participating States in adhering to Human Dimension commitments were not necessarily a result of the malicious intent of political leaders, but largely due to disparities in economic and educational development. He concluded that Human Dimension commitments had to be assessed in the light of other commitments and principles.

The role of the Charter for European Security and its Human Dimension element in contributing to a common security space was also discussed. Two speakers commented on the important role of regional groups, whose individual members were participating States in the OSCE in further strengthening the Human Dimension. While one speaker commented on the role that regional groups could perform in laying down the legal basis for solving human rights problems among member countries of that particular group, another speaker elaborated on both internal and external measures taken within the group in the Human Dimension field with a view to contributing to stability and security.

One participant expressed the view that no State could waive its commitments in the Human Dimension by invoking internal affairs, while another, commenting on the need to take into account the differences and different needs of the Southern Mediterranean countries, pointed out that social and economic development, besides strengthening democracy, were two equally important aspects of security which constituted an important basis for stability. The speaker stressed that unless those two factors were taken into consideration, it would be difficult to form a viable partnership with Mediterranean States.

Concerning the threats to the Human Dimension aspect of security and ways of preventing such threats, the speaker emphasized that instabilities arising from a dissatisfied population might be prevented by maximizing the freedom of the individual and subsequently letting the State act as the guarantor of that freedom. The speaker contended that the primary threat to security within a State often rested with the State itself, if the State curtailed the freedoms of the individual. The speaker further cited the various OSCE documents and mechanisms, including the 1989 Vienna Concluding Document, and particularly the Moscow Mechanism, elaborating on the principles of the latter, as well as the Review Conferences and the Human Dimension Implementation Meetings, as important tools for ensuring compliance with OSCE commitments in the Human Dimension. Providing examples, the speaker referred to measures that could be taken on a bilateral basis against States violating OSCE commitments, to deal with and strengthen the Human Dimension aspects of security, such as curtailment of aid, sanctions, etc. Concern about the condition of the Human Dimension in some Mediterranean partners for co-operation was also raised by the speaker.

Addressing the issue of religious confidence-building measures, the speaker emphasized that CBMs were designed to enhance security by ensuring an exchange of information between states, as well as between people and states. Commenting that all religions were united in their stance against oppression, and called for justice and peace, the speaker stressed that religion could

thereby contribute to the establishment of peace. Suggesting that the role of religion as a CBM should be studied, he cited however the danger of prevailing prejudices against one religion or the other, and particularly Islam. Stressing the need to increase public awareness of what unites the believers of different religions rather than what divides them, the speaker maintained that pluralism and diversity were two important elements for enhancing stability. The speaker also drew attention to the danger of the exploitation of religion for political gains. Finally, the speaker suggested that encouraging inter-religious dialogue, educational programmes based on respect for other faiths, joint projects to combat common problems such as poverty, racial discrimination, ethnic tension, terrorism and organized crime, educating the media to refrain from disseminating discriminatory news, and establishing common policy and mechanisms to confront fundamentalism wherever and in whichever religion it occurred would be effective CBMs.

In the final part of the session dealing with the promotion of cultural understanding, the speaker pointed out that security in the contemporary sense was no longer just military security but also included the Human Dimension aspect of security, in particular the concept of individual rights. He emphasized that security had to be built up from the grass roots level, i.e. from the level of the individual. Using as examples, the political, economic and social differences between the Northern Mediterranean and the Southern Mediterranean region, the speaker stressed the importance of bridging the gap, which could be accomplished by States of the Northern Mediterranean by taking into account the specifics of those of the Southern Mediterranean. In assessing the error of equating Islam with violence and terror, the speaker drew attention to the danger of the politicization of religion. He pointed to the importance of jointly combating phenomena such as terrorism which would then enhance cultural understanding. Strongly emphasizing that approaches which did not take into account the specific conditions and needs of the area were bound to fail, he illustrated his point with examples from the recent history of the Southern Mediterranean.

In the discussion that followed, one participant stressed the importance of considering the Mediterranean region as a neighbourhood of co-operation and understanding, and drew upon the precepts of cultural and religious diversity which were the hallmark of the OSCE. The participant also underscored the importance of enhancing co-operation with the MPCs on the basis of common and shared values and without denying cultural relativism. Emphasizing that mutual and reciprocal knowledge was the primary CBM aimed at eliminating dangerous prejudices, the participant voiced the hope that religion would also become a CBM in its own right.

Another participant expressed concern that religion had played a significant role in the fragmentation of the Mediterranean area, and that Islam had negative implications resulting from migratory movements. Stressing that distrust and ignorance led to fear, the participant spoke of the need to strengthen dialogue and reach out to the public. Referring to economic and social gaps as the main factors leading to extremism and terrorism, the speaker also drew attention to the importance of societies opening up to one another.

Finally, another participant voiced concern at the recent tendency to portray the crises in the MPC area as religious ones, thus creating obstacles to reconciliation.

Session 2

Promoting Democracy

Report by Mr. Alexander Ehrlich-Adam, Austria/European Union

The concept of free and fair elections as the foundation for democratic systems was at the core of the first presentation on “Free Elections: Basis for a Democratic Society” at this session. It was recalled that the OSCE participating States had agreed in 1990 in Copenhagen to a number of commitments with regard to the election process, namely universality, equality, fairness, secrecy, freedom, transparency and accountability. Stress was laid on the necessity to provide a clear legislative framework for organizing and implementing elections, whereby powers and competencies should also be clearly defined. It was noted that an effective and impartial election administration is crucial to democracy. The difficulty of producing voters registers, particularly for new democracies, was pointed out in this connection. The importance of effectively informing the voters on the electoral process and the need to exchange information between the electoral authorities and the political contestants were highlighted as ways how to bring about confidence into the election process. Monitoring by domestic observers and short-term and long-term observation missions also contributed to this end as well as to increased confidence in the resulting government. The involvement of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, and the assistance in election observations provided by it in that connection were described, and the more technical nature of its activities was underlined, stress being laid on the fact that election observation is not in itself a political activity but may very well have political consequences.

One participant emphasized the importance of voting as a fundamental element of human rights in a democratic society, while putting this in the broader context of promoting democracy by strengthening the rule of law, political pluralism and respect for individual rights and freedoms. The same speaker acknowledged the recent concrete steps taken by the OSCE to involve the Mediterranean partners for co-operation in election observation processes and suggested that a democratization strategy be extended to these Partners, a process that could be initiated through mutual visits and possible training programmes by officials from ODIHR.

In the light of the recent presidential elections in Azerbaijan, one participant drew attention to the need for the OSCE participating States to agree to self-monitoring by way of ODIHR’s involvement and also to accept criticism with regard to any observed shortcomings.

Another participant underlined the necessity of applying proven methodologies - such as those available from ODIHR - in election processes and urged the Mediterranean partners for co-operation to take advantage of the invitation extended to them by the OSCE to participate in observation and supervision operations of ODIHR.

In the presentation on “The Human Dimension Aspect of OSCE Missions”, based on the experience of the OSCE Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, attention was drawn to the difficulty of putting abstract normative values such as democracy into practice. This resulted sometimes in achieving a desired democratic outcome by not purely democratic means. As an example, the removal of candidates from candidates lists and issues related to enforced

regulation of the media were mentioned. Democracy, i.e. the voting process, the rule of law and a civic society were identified as vital elements for the mission in pursuing the goal of protecting minorities, protecting individuals against arbitrary powers and society against its political leaders. The mission's human dimension efforts concentrated on supporting various programs designed primarily to enforce the rule of law and to spark a substantive dialogue on the issue. Stress was also laid on the necessity of good co-operation with non-governmental organizations, civic groups and the government, in order to build a robust civil society that can serve as an effective counterweight to political tendencies favouring nascent authoritarian leadership in Bosnia. In this way, Bosnia should progressively be able to assume its own democratic responsibility.

One participant took the opportunity to urge the Mediterranean partners for co-operation to utilize the experience OSCE missions have gathered in crisis management, and to send representatives to field missions, thereby contributing from their side to the process of improving security in the European and Mediterranean area. Another speaker supported this idea.

The presentation on "The Role of Freedom of the Media" concentrated on the importance of the media as an instrument which can convey differentiated messages to promote security or which – when not free, i.e. when controlled or manipulated – can lead to destabilizing situations. The dangers of using history as an instrument to achieve particular aims, and notably the use of belligerent myths to serve one's own ends through a manipulated press were highlighted. A free press, and the public debate which accompanies it, contribute to give a more balanced picture of potentially dangerous situations. While everyone recognized the importance and the advantages of a free press as an underpinning for democracy, it was stressed that responsible and positive journalism was highly desirable. The importance of responsible journalism was underlined by the fact that the media radiate not only the content of their reports, but also credibility or incredibility.

In the discussion that followed, some participants underlined the need to ensure freedom of the press.

One participant drew attention to the potential dangers for a free press and society at large which could emerge from the ongoing concentration of controlling stakes in media companies in the hands of a few people, a phenomenon which could be observed especially in the young democratic countries of Eastern Europe.

One participant also drew attention to the problem of sensationalism, a phenomenon which is a common to all countries with a free press.

Session 3

The Rule of Law

Report by Mr. Mario Horvatic, Croatia

The discussion on “The Rule of Law: International Commitments and National Institutions” defined the rule of law as not only a legal concept, but also as a political and moral category that should provide a minimum of justice and, at the same time, guarantee the protection of an individual against abuse by state institutions. In that regard, the negative historic example provided by the communist practice of passing highly principled laws tempered with little or no respect for individual human, social and political rights could serve as a warning.

Some basic elements of the rule of law were highlighted: a clear and transparent judicial system, an independent judiciary, equality before the law as well as equal and unimpeded access to the institutions of the system, civilian control of police and the army, and safeguards against the abuse of discretionary powers.

The development of independent national institutions, such as the Ombudsman, mediators, arbitration tribunals and ad hoc commissions is considered especially valuable as a means of ensuring respect for and compliance with the rule of law. Furthermore, constant improvement and fashioning of laws is required to efficiently address new risks to civil liberties and human rights. In that regard, transregional exchange of experiences in a co-operative spirit could be beneficial.

Respect of the rule of law by States was stressed as an essential prerequisite for the development and observance of international commitments, which in turn play a crucial role in conflict prevention and crisis management. Co-operation between mutually reinforcing institutions was mentioned as an important element in the process of seeking mid- and long-term solutions. In that regard, the OSCE’s field activities, as well as the establishment of the International Criminal Court, are among the most welcome developments. However, the conflict between taking appropriate action and observing the principle of non-interference in the internal matters of sovereign States remains to be addressed, and this is an important issue in the light of the principle that security is indivisible and that threats to security, like non-observance of the rule of law, represent a legitimate concern for all.

The discussion on “The Legislative Frameworks for NGO Activity” highlighted the importance of NGOs in bringing forward and advocating the interests and concerns of ordinary citizens in the social dialogue with the political elite. The question of the financing of NGO activities was addressed, with the idea that even the political elite should provide financing for such activities, in order to promote civil society and democracy, for which the NGOs represent real infrastructure. Naturally, all financing of NGOs must be transparent in order to ensure impartiality and credibility of the NGOs in question.

In the discussion, different approaches to the protection of human rights in Eastern and Western cultures were noted and the importance of finding common ground was stressed, in order to develop multidimensional, global and universal protection of individual and group human rights. Cultural diversity and different interpretations of global standards should not be understood to be incompatible with co-operation in the protection of human rights and energy should be concentrated on the implementation of agreed issues.

A proposal was voiced for the development of a Code of Conduct for NGOs which would, on the international level, make the work of the NGOs more objective and their actions more credible.

The discussion on “The Role of Information and Education with regard to the Rule of Law” reaffirmed that teaching the standards applicable to human rights and the rule of law, at all levels of the educational system, provides a necessary tool for individuals to enter into social dialogue and realize their rights. In order to preserve and develop certain basic elements of the rule of law, such as fundamental freedoms, public consensus or good governance, the vigilance of a well educated, informed and critical public is essential. Furthermore, State institutions must, on their side, organize education in the rule of law for all government officials, so that both parties to the social contract operate under the same standards. With regard to North-South Mediterranean co-operation in education and information in the field of human rights and the rule of law, the possible role of the Council of Europe was mentioned, the Council of Europe’s experience in developing programs for the Central and Eastern European countries in transition, being kept particularly in mind.

Three principal actors in the dissemination of information regarding rule of law were identified – the State, the media and the NGOs, the specific role of each being indispensable, as several national experiences that were presented have clearly shown.

Panel Discussion

The Role of International Organizations in the Human Dimension of Security in the Mediterranean

Report by Ms. Jacqueline O'Halloran-Bernstein (Ireland)

The Moderator introduced the Session by referring to the interventions which had been made earlier in the Seminar on the role of the OSCE and the mechanisms it had developed in the Human Dimension. It was important, however, to remember that the OSCE did not act alone in advancing human rights and democracy. In this respect the Moderator gave a brief outline of developments within the Security Model discussion on the concept of mutually reinforcing co-operation. The adoption of a Common Concept for Mutually Reinforcing Co-operation at the Copenhagen Ministerial Council Meeting in 1997 was highlighted, as was the ongoing work since Copenhagen on the development of a Platform for Co-operative Security, notably in relation to the human and economic dimensions of security.

The panellists outlined the activities of their organizations and institutions in the region. The European Union made a presentation on the EU/Barcelona process which stressed the central importance of the Human Dimension to the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security. Within the Barcelona Declaration, democracy and human rights are essential parts of the wider concept of security.

The Representative of the European Commission gave a comprehensive briefing on the economic-financial and social-cultural partnership established by the Barcelona Declaration. In particular, attention was drawn to the MEDA democracy programme which covers those areas which fall under the OSCE's human dimension of security. Recalling discussions earlier in the day, the Representative of the European Commission stressed the importance of NGO activity in the development of a dynamic civil society.

The Representative of UNHCR reminded delegates that the Mediterranean Basin had been a zone of population flows since time immemorial. What was new in present times was the increase of mobility coupled with demographic pressures, civil strife, persecutions, non-respect of Human Rights and lack of democracy. These factors combined have created population flows of considerable magnitude. For host countries on both sides of the Mediterranean, the flow of people has created major challenges: on the one hand these countries have to ensure that those who flee out of well founded fear of persecution are given protection in line with the Geneva Convention, while for those who flee for reasons of poverty or for economic reasons other solutions must be found – although for this latter group, too, due respect for the dignity of the individual human being must be guaranteed.

In its activities in the Southern Mediterranean, UNHCR concentrates on encouraging States to become signatories to the Geneva Convention and the New York Protocol; those who have already signed the international refugee instruments are urged to translate them into national law and thereby lay the groundwork for efficient asylum systems.

UNHCR concluded that there were no easy answers to the problems of migration, forced displacement and refugees. It was necessary to discuss these openly and among equals in order to identify comprehensive solutions. Such solutions must take into account the rights and needs of refugees and asylum seekers but at the same time respect the sovereignty of States. The UNHCR representative looked forward to close interaction and a constructive dialogue with both the OSCE/ODIHR and with the Mediterranean partners for co-operation on these issues.

The Representative of the Council of Europe described the Council's work in relation to both the overall objectives of the Council and the manner in which those objectives were being promoted through the Council's North-South Centre. The Centre, which was set up in 1989, seeks to raise awareness and encourage dialogue between partners from North and South in a number of fields, including human rights and the promotion of peace and inter-cultural dialogue. The five dimensions of the Trans-Mediterranean programme are: Inter-Cultural Exchange, Migration, Youth and Education, Information-Communication and Human Rights.

The Representative of the ODIHR gave an overview of the structure and activities of the ODIHR. In relation to co-operation with other international organizations, the Joint Assessment Mission to the Caucasus undertaken by the ODIHR, the Council of Europe, and EU and UN agencies was mentioned as an example of this kind of co-operation. The ODIHR also works closely with the EU and the Council of Europe in the field of election observation. The ODIHR Representative encouraged the Mediterranean partners for co-operation to avail themselves of the opportunity now offered by the recent PC Decision to become involved in OSCE election observation. The possibility of organizing study trips and internships to the ODIHR in Warsaw could also be studied.

Following the panel discussion, the representatives of other international organizations present also made comments. The Mediterranean Forum speaker stressed the informal nature of this group, which had nevertheless contributed much to confidence building and the establishment of dialogue among its members over the years. It hoped, through its work, to contribute to the Euro-Mediterranean and OSCE processes. NATO and the WEU also spoke of the importance of the Human Dimension in their work and described their ongoing co-operation with the Mediterranean partners for co-operation. Both stressed the need to take into account the specifics of the various organizations and also of the region itself. The WEU mentioned that they were supplementing their twice yearly meetings with Mediterranean dialogue countries and introducing measures of a more concrete nature, including observation of a crisis management exercise in the near future. NATO also stressed that its dialogue with the southern Mediterranean had two components – political dialogue and practical co-operation.

Delegations responded positively to the Panel discussion, relating it also to discussions held earlier in the Seminar. One Delegation found that the Panel had been a good example of the Platform for Co-operative Security in action, stimulating discussion at all levels on how the OSCE could co-operate with other international organizations. The call for greater NGO participation, made by one of the panellists, was given support. There was need to study data bases and gain a clear idea of which NGOs could make a contribution. The discussion earlier had shown that a transparent set of rules within which NGOs could operate was clearly necessary. On the Rule of Law, it was noted that the OSCE was not always the most

competent institution to deal with such questions. The EU Statement to the Contact Group of 14 September was recalled in this respect. In relation to religious Confidence and Security Building Measures (CSBMs) and control of the media it was felt that the expression of tolerance and dignity should not be confused with the free exercise of religious belief.

Another Delegation mentioned that the role of the OSCE in the Mediterranean was mostly indirect. Through its experience gained so far, as well as the tools at its disposal, the OSCE could serve as a model for the Mediterranean partners for co-operation. The Panel discussion underlined the importance the OSCE attached to co-operation with other institutions, indeed, such co-operation was characteristic of the direction in which the OSCE was moving. The OSCE's comparative advantages included its broad membership, its comprehensive concept of security, its flexibility and cost effectiveness. A special culture existed within the Organization which, in relation to the Human Dimension, allowed it to be uniquely intrusive. With regard to the Human Dimension, the importance of training and education was stressed. Those responsible for carrying out the tasks that had been set needed to be trained to do so.

Delegations also suggested that the structure of the Seminar should be re-examined with a view to allowing more time for discussion in the future. The possibility of organizing informal working groups was brought up, as was the need for greater NGO involvement. One Partner mentioned the need for a survey of the work of the seminars so that their achievements could be built on from year to year and not be wasted.

The Moderator concluded that the Session had shown that the Human Dimension, and more especially human rights, was a central element in the agenda of the organizations present. Strengthening the Human Dimension in all the relevant fora would contribute to promoting stability and security in the Mediterranean as a whole. The discussion had been wide-ranging and had shown that there were several areas of activity where the various institutions could work together in order to enhance further and make more effective the role of international organizations in the field of the human dimension of security in the Mediterranean.

III. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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IV. List of Documents distributed during the Seminar *)

No.	Date	Institution/Author	Title	Language
001	19/10	OSCE Secretariat	Agenda and the organizational modalities of the Seminar, version as of 18 October	English
002	19/10	OSCE Secretariat	Preliminary list of participants	English
003	19/10	OSCE Secretary General, Ambassador Giancarlo Aragona	Opening address	English
004	19/10	Embassy of Malta to Austria	Relevant OSCE Documents (an excerpt)	English
005	19/10	Egypt, Prof. Saad Eddin Ibrahim	Promotion of Cultural Understanding, Exchange of Experiences between Peoples to the North and the South of the Mediterranean: Working Towards Promoting Mutual Understanding in the Area of Cultural Particularities	English
006	19/10	Poland/OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Mr. Jerzy Wieclaw	From Lisbon to Oslo: Security Model Discussion in the OSCE. The Human Dimension Aspect	English
007	19/10	Jordan, Col. Walid Kreishan	The Jordanian Vision on Religious Confidence-Building Measures	English
008	19/10	Russian Federation, Ambassador Victor F. Isakov	The Importance of the Human Dimension for Creating a Common Security Space	English
009	19/10	Malta, Prof. Guido de Marco, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs	Opening address	English
010	19/10	OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ambassador R. Barry	The Human Dimension Aspect of OSCE Missions	English
011	19/10	USA, Mr. C. Gore	Preventing Threats to the Human Dimension Aspect of Security	English
012	19/10	Malta, Hon. Justice Joseph A. Filletti	The Rule of Law: International Commitments and National Institutions	English
013	19/10	EU/European Commission, Mr. Von Geyr	The Human Dimension of Security: Promoting Democracy and the Rule of Law	English
014	19/10	Austria/EU Presidency, Dr. Cornaro	The Importance of the Human Dimension for Creating a Common Security Space	English
015	19/10	OSCE/ODIHR	Modalities for the Participation of the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation as guest observers in OSCE/ODIHR election observation missions	English

016	19/10	OSCE Secretary General	Modalities for short-term visits to OSCE Missions by Representatives of the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation	English
017	20/10	Sweden – Handout paper	Euro-Mediterranean Workshop in Stockholm, 23-24 April 1998, Dialogue between Cultures and Civilizations	English
017 a	20/10	Sweden – Handout paper	Corrected version	English
018	20/10	European Union	Barcelona Declaration adopted at the Euro-Mediterranean Conference	English
019	20/10	Malta, Mr. M. Buttigieg	Promoting Democracy: The Human Dimension Aspect of OSCE Missions	English
020	20/10	Malta, Mr. M. Buttigieg	Promoting Democracy – Free elections: Basis for a democratic Society	English
021	20/10	The Times (Maltese Newspaper)	Article on the Seminar: “OSCE Seminar discusses the human dimension”	English
022	20/10	Norway, Ambassador Kai Eide	Dialogue between the OSCE and the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation: the Human Dimension	English
023	20/10	European Commission, Mr. K. Revelas	The Role of International Organizations in the Human Dimension of Security in the Mediterranean; Implementation of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership	English
024	20/10	European Union/ Barcelona Process	The Role of International Organizations in the Human Dimension of Security in the Mediterranean; The Human Dimension of Security in the Barcelona Process	English
025	20/10	Malta, Ambassador Saviour F. Borg	The Role of Information and Education with regard to the Rule of Law	English
026	20/10	OSCE Secretariat	Updated List of Participants as of 20 October 1998	English
027	20/10	Austria/EU	Intervention de l’ue a l’occasion de la réunion du groupe de contact avec les Pays Méditerranéen pour le Coopération	French

*) The documents are available at the Documents Distribution Desk upon request

Annex: Seating arrangement

