

## 'PUBLIC ACCESS TO JUSTICE: DEVELOPING THE SKILLS AND PRACTICE OF CIVIL MEDIATION IN THE OSCE AREA'

Side Meeting: Novotel Centrum, Warsaw, Tuesday 18th May 2010 at 1800-1845

In both the new and old democracies of OSCE, Governments face increasing challenges in ensuring fair and affordable public access to justice for all. In the newer democracies there is often a lack of public confidence in weak or insufficiently developed judicial or court structures, and an absence of other means for resolving disputes. In the old democracies the prohibitive cost of lawyers and legal aid schemes, and the complexity, delay and stress of litigation, frequently put access to justice beyond the reach of ordinary citizens. It is against such a backdrop that Civil Mediation between conflicting parties as a form of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) has emerged in the last decade as a highly efficient and cost-effective option in conventional judicial processes in delivering justice.

The presenters, world leaders in the organisation and development of conflict resolution, have identified context-sensitive options for developing mediation in participating States in the OSCE area, in particular in the fields of human rights, regional and cultural disputes, and access to justice for commercial organisations and individuals. The presentation, which is based on their combined experience of more than fifty years in such work, is intended to support and promote the immediate and effective growth of democratic jurisprudence without being a burden on court structures or State funding.

Presentation and questions:

**Jonathan Dingle** - Hon. Secretary of the UK Civil Mediation Council since founding in 2002. Barrister and International Mediator. Mediation Achiever of the Year 2009.

**Judith Kelbie** - Leading independent International Mediator and Trainer. Board Member of UK Civil Mediation Council. Specialist in mediator standards and accreditation.

**Tim Dingle** - Mediator and negotiation specialist. Member of the World Board of the Global Negotiation Insight Initiative (Harvard Negotiation Project). MBA trainer.

**Julian Peel Yates** - OSCE/ODIHR External Expert. Lawyer, diplomat, mediator. Since 1993 CSCE/OSCE field and election observation mission experience at Head of Mission level.