



OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

March-April 08

ODIHR e-newsletter

Current election missions

[Italy](#)
[Serbia](#)
[Georgia](#)



Seminar on constitutional justice



The OSCE's first human dimension meeting of 2008 is a seminar on constitutional justice. The seminar will take place in Warsaw on 14-16 May and will give participants an opportunity to discuss the role and impact of constitutional courts on the democratic development of OSCE participating States, and will highlight current challenges.

It is expected that the seminar will attract current and former constitutional judges, academic experts, officials, and representatives of relevant non-governmental organizations.

Recruitment for election mission

The ODIHR is currently recruiting for core-team positions for an election observation mission to observe the 1 June 2008 pre-term parliamentary elections in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The deadline for applications is 10.00 CET, 21 April 2008.

[How to apply](#)

[Online registration](#)

The other 2008 conferences are:

The Role of National Institutions against Discrimination in Combating Racism and Xenophobia with Special Focus on Persons belonging to National Minorities and Migrants
Vienna, 29-30 May

Sustainable Policies for Roma and Sinti Integration
Vienna, 10-11 July

Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
Warsaw, 29 September - 10 October

Democratic Law Making
Vienna, 6-7 November

Latest reports

[Statement of preliminary findings and conclusion on the 6 April 2008 presidential election in Montenegro](#)

[Final report on the 21 October 2007 federal elections in Switzerland](#)

[Joint interim opinion on the draft amendments to the electoral code of Azerbaijan](#)

[Final report on the 21 October pre-term parliamentary elections in Poland](#)

[Needs assessment mission report ahead of the 13-14 April 2008 parliamentary elections in Italy](#)

[Post-election interim report on the 19 February 2008 presidential election in Armenia](#)

[More information on upcoming events](#)

ODIHR Director visits Georgian leaders ahead of parliamentary poll

ODIHR Director Ambassador Christian Strohal made an official visit to Georgia ahead of the upcoming 21 May parliamentary elections. He met with Parliament Speaker Nino Burjanadze (pictured left), Foreign Minister David Bakradze, as well as with representatives of the opposition, civil society, the media and the election administration. He urged all parties to work towards improvements in the electoral process in the remaining time.

[More about the visit](#)



[Final report on the 5 January 2008 extraordinary presidential election in Georgia](#)

[Final report on the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on "Combating the Sexual Exploitation of Children"](#)

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Russian version

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ODIHR issues review of Armenia law on assemblies

The ODIHR released a joint draft legal review with the Council of Europe's Venice Commission on Armenia's Law on Conducting Meetings, Assemblies, Rallies and Demonstrations.

[More information](#)

[Read the review](#)

New project on legal guidelines for hate crime

New guidelines being prepared by the ODIHR will help states build a solid legal foundation for dealing with hate crime. The guidelines are aimed at policymakers and legislators, but will also be useful for judges prosecutors and NGOs.



[More about the project](#)

Police experts to visit Czech Republic and Bosnia and Herzegovina

Experts from the ODIHR's Law Enforcement Officers Programme on Combating Hate Crime (LEOP) will make visits in May to the Czech Republic and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Programme trains national law enforcement personnel to identify and respond to hate crime.

The visit to the Czech Republic from 6 to 7 May will focus on recent successes of Czech law enforcement agencies in responding to organized hate groups with a view to spreading lessons learned to other OSCE states. The LEOP experts will meet representatives of the Ministry of Interior, the police academy, civil society, academia and representatives of different communities affected by hate crime.

The visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina follows the Ministry of Security's invitation to the ODIHR to assess the needs of the law enforcement community in implementing the LEOP.

[More about the ODIHR's police training programme](#)

International Roma Day

On the occasion of International Roma Day on 8 April, Ambassador Christian Strohal called on governments and local authorities to step up efforts to eradicate discrimination of Roma and ensure their full participation in society.

[Full statement](#)

New publications and translations

- Toledo Guiding Principles on Teaching about Religions and Beliefs in Public Schools ([Spanish](#))

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