

757th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 757, Agenda item 5

**DECISION No. 892
AGENDA, TIMETABLE AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL
MODALITIES OF THE 2009 HUMAN DIMENSION SEMINAR**

Warsaw, 12 to 14 May 2009

**Strengthening the rule of law in the OSCE area, with a special focus on the
effective administration of justice**

I. Agenda

1. Opening of the Seminar
2. Opening plenary: keynote addresses
3. Discussion in four working groups
4. Closing plenary: summing up and closing of the Seminar

II. Timetable and other organizational modalities

1. The Seminar will open on Tuesday, 12 May 2009, at 9 a.m. It will close on Thursday, 14 May 2009, at 4.30 p.m.
2. All plenary sessions and working group sessions will be open to all participants.
3. The closing plenary session, scheduled for the afternoon of 14 May 2009, will focus on practical suggestions and recommendations for addressing the issues discussed during the working group sessions.
4. The plenary and working group sessions will take place in accordance with the work programme below.
5. A representative of the ODIHR will chair the plenary sessions.

6. The Rules of Procedure of the OSCE and the modalities for OSCE meetings on human dimension issues (Permanent Council Decision No. 476) will be followed, *mutatis mutandis*, at the Seminar. The guidelines for organizing OSCE meetings (Permanent Council Decision No. 762) will be taken into account.

7. The discussions during the plenary and working group sessions will be interpreted from and into the six working languages of the OSCE.

Working group I: Independence of the judiciary

- Selection and appointment of judges — procedures and safeguards to ensure selection of the most qualified candidates for the judicial profession;
- Judicial tenure, promotion, and remuneration;
- Case assignment procedures — practices that foster greater independence and public confidence in justice administration;
- Complaint mechanisms for judicial misconduct, review and investigation of complaints;
- Disciplinary procedures and guarantees of a fair hearing for judges, disciplinary sanctions;
- The role of judicial self-government in ensuring integrity.

Working group II: Administrative justice: Judicial review of administrative decisions, administrative offences and due process of law

- Judicial review of an administrative decision as an effective remedy — principles and practices;
- Efficient adjudication of administrative cases — lessons learned from the participating States;
- Distinction between criminal and administrative offences — guiding principles;
- Fair trial and due process safeguards for administrative offences;
- Reforms of criminal law and policy and their impact on administrative justice.

Working group III: Administration of justice: Transparency and enforcement

- Public and media access to trials — exchange of best practices and experiences in the OSCE area;
- Trial monitoring, including other independent observation initiatives and their contribution to the improvement of justice administration and enforcement of judicial decisions — exchange of best practices and experiences in the OSCE area;

- Effective and efficient enforcement of judgements as an essential element of justice administration.

Working group IV: Administration of justice: Accountability

- Investigation of complaints of torture or ill-treatment in places of detention;
- Effective national preventive mechanisms against torture, including those under the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture (OPCAT) and monitoring of police detention.

Work programme

Lunch break: 12 noon–1.30 p.m.

	Tuesday 12 May 2009	Wednesday 13 May 2009	Thursday 14 May 2009
9 a.m.–12 noon	Opening plenary session	WG II	WG IV
1.30–4.30 p.m.	WG I	WG III	Closing plenary session