



OSCE HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING 2007

Working Session 17 – 4th October, Warsaw

Fundamental freedoms III

Recommendations from the European Union

- Participating States should ensure their legislation regulating the activities of NGOs conforms with OSCE and other international commitments. Financial and administrative obstacles, likely to hinder the free operation of human rights defenders, should be removed. Legislation should not be used to restrict or intimidate them.
- Participating States should give full and practical recognition to the positive role played by human rights defenders in finding peaceful solutions to political and social conflicts; and should ensure their protection and support their activities within the framework of the OSCE and the United Nations.
- Participating States should ensure that their criminal justice systems take timely action to investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of crimes against human rights defenders.
- OSCE institutions and field missions should increase their monitoring of participating States' compliance with their commitments on freedom of assembly and association; publicise their findings; and provide assistance to participating States to address any shortcomings.

- Participating states should ensure that national human rights institutions operate in accordance with the Paris Principles, take appropriate measures to ensure their independence and all steps necessary to promote their working in partnership and as advocates for other representatives of civil society

- OSCE institutions and field missions should increase their work to develop and assist civil society, human rights defenders and national human rights institutions within the OSCE region.