

Human Dimension Seminar

May 17 2010

Address on behalf of the Host Country

Mr. Jan Borkowski, Secretary of State in the MFA

Mister Chairman,

I am particularly pleased to welcome the participants of the OSCE Human Dimension Seminar. I take special pleasure in welcoming Ambassador Jarbussynova, Special Representative of the Chairman in Office of the OSCE and use this occasion to commend the efforts of Kazakh Chairmanship to secure effective performance of our Organization in 2010 year.

The Seminar has gained a prominent place in the calendar of annual events devoted to the human dimension of the OSCE and substantially contributes to the presence of human rights and democracy issues in OSCE activity. Experience has demonstrated that this subject matter is of key importance in the overall concept of security. It enhances the debate on the future of security and cooperation in Europe in the framework of the Corfu process, reflecting the unique character of our organization.

The Seminar we are inaugurating today builds on the earlier interest of the OSCE in the judiciary, its independence, effectiveness and its relations with the other branches of government and with society. Let me recall at this point that two years ago we discussed the crucial topic of constitutional judiciary and last year we focused on the rule of law, including the transparency and responsibility of the judicial system.

Over the next three days we will examine a broad spectrum of issues relating to internal and external activity of states. The efficient functioning of the rule of law is one of the factors that promote international understanding and reinforce the credibility of individual states, thus facilitating the fulfillment of OSCE commitments in the human dimension sphere. On the other hand, it is obvious that such issues as access to justice, fast court procedures and proper operation of the penitentiary system all have immediate, practical impact on the lives of individuals.

Indeed, Poland attaches particular importance to the human dimension precisely because of the practical aspect of OSCE activity, which enables our citizens to effectively pursue their rights. We are firmly convinced that resolute implementation of OSCE commitments in the human dimension is of fundamental significance for maintaining the credibility and international stature of the OSCE.

Also, it is pivotal to the success of present and future discussions on the organization's reform and the future architecture of security in the Euroatlantic area. That is why we are treating the presence of the ODIHR in Warsaw and the possibility of annually hosting the Seminar and the HDIM as a distinction that simultaneously obligates Poland to consistently promote human rights and democratic values. In this context, let me take this opportunity to inform you that last Thursday Poland has been elected to the UN Human Rights Council for the period 2010 – 2013. It was possible thanks to the support of over 170 states.

I am convinced that the professionalism and dedication of Ambassador Lenarcic and his team, justly praised for their thorough and accurate preparation of our debates, will allow us to conduct a critical analysis of the present situation and to identify any shortcomings in the operation of the judiciary in the participating states, making it possible to draft recommendations for improvement.

And so, may you have interesting and lively discussions leading to insightful conclusions that are ultimately put into practice. Indeed, follow-up requires constant strengthening since it is essential to the effectiveness of such OSCE conference as the one we are launching today.

In conclusion, let me remind you that I would be delighted to see you this evening at the traditional MFA reception for Seminar participants.

Thank you for your attention.