



SUPPLEMENTARY HUMAN DIMENSION MEETING

FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA: PROTECTION OF JOURNALISTS AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION

**13-14 July 2006
HOFBURG VIENNA**

To non-governmental organisations

Please find attached the agenda and general guidelines relating to the upcoming OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Freedom of the Media: Protection of Journalists and Access to Information to be held at the Hofburg Congress Centre in Vienna on 13-14 July 2006. Additional information relevant to this Meeting can be found on ODIHR and FoM websites at <http://www.osce.org/odihr> and <http://www.osce.org/fom> .

The Meeting will address the following three subjects:

- Working Session 1: Access to Information
- Working Session 2: Freedom of Opinion and Expression: The role of voluntary professional standards in facilitating mutual respect and understanding
- Working Session 3: Protection of Journalists – Administrative Measures

And extract from the discussions best practices for the OSCE participating States.

The conference attracts government officials, OSCE delegations, NGOs and civil society, regional and international organizations, and is therefore seen as an important forum for discussing cross-sectoral issues. For FoM and ODIHR this is unique opportunity to put media issues on the political agenda.

NGOs whose activities directly relate to the topic of the Meeting and wish to attend are requested to register on-line for this event by Wednesday, 28 June 2006. We encourage NGOs to register on-line at <http://meetings.odihr.pl> if at all possible. Alternatively, you may return a completed NGO registration form by fax at +48 22 520 06 03.

NGOs are invited to forward this information to other relevant actors in the given field.

Please note that participants can pick up their passes for the meeting venue in advance on Thursday, 13 July 2006 from 10.00 at the Hofburg Congress Centre in the main entrance hall.

NGOs may display information materials about their organisation on the tables in the lobby of the main meeting room. NGOs may also distribute documents during the Meeting by giving one copy of each document (maximum 3 pages in length) to staff of the Document Distribution Centre. NGOs are encouraged to participate actively in the Working Sessions while limiting their interventions to the specific issues at hand thereby contributing to a genuine discussion.

Unfortunately, the ODIHR is not in a position to provide any financial assistance for NGOs to participate in this Meeting. For your convenience please find attached a list of hotels in Vienna. NGOs are kindly requested to make their own hotel arrangements.

For further information please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Valerie Crab, FoM Liaison Officer at Valerie.Crab@osce.org and Ms. Anna Sierant, ODIHR Administrative Assistant at Anna.Sierant@odihr.pl or office@odihr.pl .