



Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting

PROMOTION OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION: RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES AND OSCE COMMITMENTS

**3-4 July 2014
Hofburg, Vienna**

To civil society

Based on the Helsinki Document of 1992 (Chapter IV) calling for increased openness in OSCE activities and for expanding the role of NGOs, OSCE would like to invite civil society organizations to the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting to be held on the subject of Promotion of freedom of expression: rights, responsibilities and OSCE commitments, “Improving OSCE effectiveness by enhancing its co-operation with relevant regional and international organizations” which will take place in Hofburg Congress Centre, on 3-4 July.

According to the decision of the Permanent Council (PC.DEC/476, 23 May 2002), during each year, the Chairman-in-Office organizes three informal Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings (SHDMs), in the framework of the Permanent Council, in order to discuss key substantive concerns raised at the previous Human Dimension Meetings or Review Conferences. ODIHR – Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights assists the Chairman-in-Office in preparing the SHDMs. Other OSCE institutions, in case of this SHDM - OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFOM), are also involved in the preparation, according to topics and their areas of competences and expertise.

The Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting will provide a forum for the discussion of the developments regarding the rights, responsibilities and OSCE commitments with respect to freedom of expression. The topics will include the right to freedom of expression as envisioned in States’ national laws, as well as in international law and policy, the responsibilities within the framework of freedom of expression as set by international standards, and the role of the OSCE and civil society in safeguarding and promoting the commitments in this regard.

Recommendations from the meeting may be addressed to participating States, the OSCE at large, OSCE institutions, including the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, OSCE field operations, other inter-governmental or non-governmental organizations, as well as other civil society actors in OSCE participating States. Additional information relevant to the SHDM, including detailed agenda, can be found on ODIHR website at <https://www.osce.org/odihr/118316>.

Civil society representatives are invited to forward this information to other relevant actors in the given field.

Registration & Modalities

Civil society representatives, whose activities relate to the topic of the SHDM and who wish to attend, are requested to register on-line by **Tuesday, 17 June 2014** at <http://meetings.odihr.pl>. Registered participants will be able to collect their badges in the main entrance hall of the Hofburg Congress Centre as of Thursday, 3 July 2014 from 09:00. The registration will also be available online after the deadline and during the Meeting on the spot, however, to facilitate the preparation for the meeting, e.g. preparation of badges and printing of sufficient amount of materials, the earliest possible registration would be highly appreciated. Those participants who experience problems with registration are requested to contact Ms. Anna Sierant (contact details below).

Unfortunately, the ODIHR and RFOM are not in a position to provide any financial assistance to participate in the SHDM. Participants are kindly requested to make their own travel and hotel arrangements. You can find a list of suggested hotels in Vienna on the ODIHR website.

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

The meeting will be interpreted into the six official OSCE languages: English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish.

Side events

During SHDM, side events can be organised. For that purpose two rooms in Hofburg are pre-booked and offered by OSCE together with the PPT facilities. The available time slots are:

- Thursday, 10 April, 13.00 – 15.00 (2 slots); and
- Friday, 11 April, 12:00 – 14:00 (2 slots).

Refreshments or interpretation can be provided upon request, at your expense – please find more information and the contact details in the side events' checklist document.

If you wish to organise a side event, please submit the checklist latest by **Wednesday, 18 June 2014** to Mr. Ireneusz Stępiński at Ireneusz.Stepinski@odihr.pl. Requests are processed on a first come, first served basis, subject to availability of rooms.

For more information please contact:

Substantive content matters: Ms. Nora Isaac, RFOM, at Nora.Isaac@osce.org or +43 1 514 36 6805

Organizational matters: Ms. Kamila Czerwinska, ODIHR at Kamila.Czerwinska@odihr.pl or +48 22 5200 657

Registration of participants: Ms. Anna Sierant, ODIHR at Anna.Sierant@odihr.pl or +48 22 5200 627

Organization of side events: Mr. Ireneusz Stepinski, ODIHR at Ireneusz.Stepinski@odihr.pl or +48 22 52 00 658