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**The Human Dimension Seminar  
Upholding the Rule of Law and Due Process in Criminal Justice Systems  
Warsaw, 10-12 May 2006**

**Statement of the Republic of Slovenia**

The Republic of Slovenia would like to thank ODIHR and Belgian Chairmanship for organizing the Human Dimension Seminar *Upholding the Rule of Law and Due Process in Criminal Justice Systems* which addresses the theme of fight against organized crime, a major theme of the Belgian chairmanship in 2006 and one of the biggest concerns in modern societies.

On one hand Europe is in the unique historical process of widening its common European ground of cultural, political and judicial tradition facing a fascinating evolution but on the other hand it is facing perceivable increase of organized crime in its various forms due to expansion of new means of technology and communication. The organized crime with its trans-national nature does not violate the criminal justice systems only but also the basic principals of the rule of law and of the human rights.

The OSCE participating States have been tasked to focus on criminal justice systems by the Ljubljana Ministerial Council Decisions No. 3 and No. 12, and while this seminar follows up the decisions, it at the same time offers us an excellent opportunity to contribute to further development of effectiveness and efficiency of the criminal justice systems. This year the seminar is also a continuation of the discussion at the 2005 Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on the *Role of Defence Lawyers in Guaranteeing a Fair Trial* which took place in Tbilisi.

The cooperation among the core institutions of criminal justice system is needed for leading an effective fight against organized crime. But at the same time we may not forget that the

cooperation, exchange of information and experiences among States and an inevitable role of different regional and international forums - as far as sharing experiences and best practices is concerned - are playing an important part in the fight against organized crime.

The Republic of Slovenia hopes the seminar shall provide participating States with appropriate exchange of experiences and best practices and that in this manner actions against organized crime shall be addressed, assured and ameliorated.