

Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

Working session 4: Freedom of assembly and association

Wednesday, 21 September 2016

National statement of Poland

Madam Moderator,

Poland fully aligns itself with the statement delivered at this session on behalf of the EU. In my national capacity I would like to additionally share our experience related to ODIHR monitoring mission of public assemblies we have recently hosted in Poland.

In the framework of its activities supporting participating States, ODIHR conducted a monitoring mission of public assemblies in connection with the NATO summit that Poland hosted in Warsaw on the 8th and 9th of July. The monitoring mission was held under very special circumstances: the organization of the NATO Summit required from the Polish government the use of additional security measures while guaranteeing the constitutional right to peaceful assembly.

In the run up to the monitoring exercise, the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs facilitated meetings of the ODIHR experts with relevant institutions involved in the organization of the NATO summit and ensuring its peaceful proceeding, which included the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Defense, Warsaw City Hall, Border Guard, Police and others, to discuss the methodology of the exercise, as well as the Polish legislation related to freedom of assembly, preparations to the NATO summit and best practices when it comes to assembly policing. The meetings have been held in a cooperative and constructive atmosphere. ODIHR monitored public gatherings that took place on 8th and 9th of July and have been conducted in a peaceful manner.

The conclusions and recommendations of the monitoring exercise in Poland and other OSCE participating States are planned to be published in a joint report this autumn.

We would like to thank ODIHR and its staff under the leadership of Director Link for the good cooperation and support. Marking ODIHR's 25th anniversary this year, we would like to express our gratitude to the institution which is guardian of our human dimension commitments, including in the freedom of assembly area.