



Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting

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

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

General Guidelines

1. Aim of the Meeting

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 second Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting in 2014 will address the topic of Promotion of Freedom of Expression: Rights, Responsibilities and OSCE Commitments.

The 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 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 annotated agenda can be found on ODIHR website at <https://www.osce.org/odihr/118316>.

2. Participation

Representatives of OSCE participating States, OSCE Institutions, and OSCE field operations, representatives of inter-governmental organizations, representatives of non-governmental organizations, and other civil society actors will participate in the SHDM. The Partners for Co-

operation are invited to attend and contribute with respect to their co-operation and links with the OSCE in the field. Civil Society organizations can find more information in the document 'Information for Civil Society'.

3. Registration

On-line registration for all participants is available at <http://meetings.odihr.pl>. Participants are advised to register by Tuesday, 17 June 2014. Registered participants will be able to collect their badges as of Thursday, 3 July 2014 from 09:00 in the main entrance hall of the Hofburg Congress Centre. 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.

4. Modalities

The modalities of the meeting are set out in accordance with the decision of the Permanent Council (PC.DEC/476, 23 May 2002).

The meeting will take place in the Hofburg Congress Centre. It will start on Thursday, 3 July, at 15.00 by the opening session, will be followed by three working sessions and the closing session will finish on Friday, 4 July at 17.30.

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

Side events may be held over the course of two days during the SHDM. Additional information on the content and objectives of any side event, as well as timing and duration are available on the SHDM website, in the 'Side events check-list' document.

5. Guidelines for the Debates

The intention is to develop a free-flowing discussion based on the keynote speeches, panellists' inputs, discussions, background information and written statements circulated in advance or during the SHDM. To this end, formal interventions in the form of prepared statements are not envisaged in the course of the SHDM and are discouraged. Prepared statements, background documentation, comments or written materials may be submitted in advance for circulation by the Documents Distribution Centre and hence can feed the discussion.

In case of any questions, please contact:

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