



Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting

HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ECONOMICS CRISIS

30-31 October 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 'Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in Economic Crisis' which will take place in the Hofburg Congress Centre, on 30-31st October 2014.

According to a decision of the Permanent Council (PC.DEC/476, 23 May 2002), 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. The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) as well as other OSCE institutions assist the Chairman-in-Office in preparing the SHDMs.

The third Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting will provide a forum for the discussion of how the economic crisis has impacted on the enjoyment of human rights in the OSCE area. The topics will include economic, social and cultural rights, the protection of vulnerable groups as well as rights and responsibilities in times of economic crisis. The discussion will focus on the role of the OSCE and other actors in safeguarding and promoting relevant OSCE commitments in the face of decreasing resources and competing demands.

Recommendations from the meeting may be addressed to participating States, OSCE institutions, including the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, OSCE executive structures, the OSCE at large, 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/124899>.

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

Registration & Modalities

On-line registration for all participants is available at <http://meetings.odihr.pl>. Participants are advised to register by Wednesday, 15th October 2014.

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. Registered participants will be able to collect their badges as of Thursday, 30 October 2014 from 09:00 in the main entrance hall of the Hofburg Congress Centre. Those participants who experience problems with registration are requested to contact Ms. Anna Sierant (contact details below).

Unfortunately, the ODIHR is 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 selected 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 (rooms 201 and Ratsaal) and offered by OSCE together with the PPT facilities. The available time slots are:

- Thursday, 30 October, 13.00 – 15.00 (2 slots); and
- Friday, 31 October, 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.

Participants wishing to organise a side event should send a side events' checklist latest by 17th October 2014 to Mr. Ireneusz Stepinski, ODIHR at Ireneusz.Stepinski@odihr.pl. 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. Requests are processed on a first come, first served basis, subject to availability of rooms.

In case of any questions, please contact:

Substantive content matters: Ms. Irina Urumova, ODIHR at Irina.Urumova@odihr.pl or +48 22 5200 705

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