



Vienna 18 November 2008

On December 10th 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted in Paris the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

To celebrate the 60th Anniversary of this fundamental text, source of inspiration of the Helsinki Process, and of the universality of human rights advocated by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Finnish Chairmanship of the OSCE and the French Presidency of the European Union are organising an event on December 15th in the Hofburg (Neuer Saal) in Vienna.

Key note speeches will be delivered by Minister Elisabeth Rehn, former Minister of Defence of Finland, Mr. François Zimeray, Ambassador of France for Human Rights, and Mr. Aliaksandr Bialiatiski, vice-president of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH). The event will comprise of three thematical sessions:

- Ensuring the realisation of human rights in conflict situations, conflict prevention and post-conflict situations – with a particular focus on vulnerable groups ;
- The role of the civil society and human rights defenders in the promotion of human rights in the OSCE area ;
- The role of the OSCE in ensuring respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

This event is open to representatives of all OSCE participating States, Partners of Co-operation and non-governmental organizations committed to the defence and promotion of human rights as well as relevant international organizations.

Registration will take place online (will be available at <http://www.osce.org/cio/>) and participants are encouraged to register as early as possible and not later than 10 December 2008.

Ambassador Antti Turunen
Permanent Representative of Finland

Ambassador Eric Lebedel
Permanent Representative of France