

Human rights as an integral part of the OSCE's approach to security
OSCE Chairmanship and EU Presidency Event to Mark the 60th Anniversary of the
Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)

15 December 2008

Hofburg (Neuer Saal), Vienna

10.00 - 11.30

Ensuring the realisation of human rights in conflict situations, conflict prevention and post-conflict situations - with a particular focus on vulnerable groups

Key note speaker: Minister Elisabeth Rehn (Finland, former Minister of Defence, OSCE Chairmanship)

Moderator: Ambassador Antti Turunen, Permanent Mission to Finland to the OSCE

Questions that could be discussed:

- The concept of comprehensive security is one of the added values of the OSCE. How can this concept be utilised in our human rights' work?
- How should the OSCE take into account the special needs of vulnerable groups, such as women and children in conflict areas?
- What experiences does the OSCE have in involving women in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution?
- How can the OSCE best assist the participating States to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1325(2000)

11.30 - 13.00

The role of the civil society and human rights defenders in the promotion of human rights in the OSCE region

Key note speaker: Mr François Zimeray, French Ambassador for Human Rights

Moderator: Ambassador Eric Lebédel, Permanent Representation of France to the OSCE

Questions that could be discussed:

- Why human rights defenders play an indispensable role in the promotion and protection of human rights?
- How can the OSCE support the participating States in protecting the human rights of civil society actors advocating for the respect for human rights?
- What are the best practices from participating States in forming partnerships with NGO's and other civil society actors in order to enhance the realisation of human rights?

13.00 - 14.30

Launch of the photo exhibition on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) organised by the French EU Presidency

Luncheon hosted by the French EU Presidency

14.30 - 16.00

The role of the OSCE in ensuring respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law

Key note speaker: Mr. Aliaksandr Bialiatski, vice-president of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)

Interventions by other representatives from non-governmental organizations (tbc)

Moderator: Ambassador Eoin O'Leary, Permanent Mission of Ireland to the OSCE

Questions that could be discussed:

- What are the accomplishments of the OSCE in enhancing the full enjoyment of individuals' human rights? What are the prospects for the full realisation of human rights in the OSCE region?
- What is the added value of the OSCE in the promotion and protection of human rights?
- What measures should the OSCE take in order to further promote the rights put forth in the Universal Declaration and OSCE human rights commitments?
- How can the OSCE further cooperate with other international actors in the promotion of human rights?