

**OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting**

**Warsaw, 29 September – 10 October 2008**

**Working Session 3 : “Fundamental freedoms II”**

**Contribution of the Council of Europe**

**THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS  
AND THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

At its 1006th meeting on 10 October 2007, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted its Recommendation (2007)14 on the legal status of non-governmental organisations in Europe. On 23 November 2007, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted its Recommendation 1820 (2007) “Co-operation between the Assembly and the Conference of INGOs”. In their respective recommendations, the Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly invited to “encourage those member states, which have not yet done so, to ratify the European Convention on the recognition of the legal personality of international non-governmental organisations (ETS No. 124), opened for signature in 1986”.

In accordance with its task of implementation, monitoring and evaluation of standards, the European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ) will, should financial and human resources permit in 2009-2010, assess the use made of the Committee of Ministers’ Recommendation in Council of Europe member states, and raise awareness on Convention No. 124 and promote legal reforms aiming at increasing NGO participation in Council of Europe member states, thus contributing to fulfilling the Warsaw Action Plan, Chapter I, item 3, paragraph 5.