



Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

8-9 November 2012

Hofburg, Vienna

To civil society

Please find attached the agenda and general guidelines relating to the upcoming OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Freedom of Assembly and Association. This Meeting will take place in Vienna from 8 to 9 November 2012.

Additional information relevant to this Meeting can be found on ODIHR website at <http://www.osce.org/odihr/93722>.

This Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting (SHDM) will seek to address how the full implementation of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association can be advanced and protected to promote an inclusive and diverse democratic society. It will identify the challenges faced by the OSCE participating States and discuss how they can be met, in order to ensure the full enjoyment of these freedoms. The SHDM will devote particular attention to how new technologies influence the enjoyment of the freedoms of peaceful assembly and association. The SHDM will also provide a forum for discussing those extremely limited circumstances in which the exercise of these rights may be restricted in accordance with the relevant international standards and commitments.

The meeting will address the topic through the following three sessions:

- Freedom of Association: obstacles to the full realization of this right and ways to overcome them;
- Freedom of Peaceful Assembly: new challenges and opportunities for dialogue;
- Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and Association: the role of new technologies.

The OSCE/ODIHR, with the support of the Irish Chairmanship, plans to hold a one-day Civil Society Forum on 7 November 2012, ahead of the SHDM. At this Forum, civil society participants will be able to identify common challenges, share good practices on the topics addressed by the SHDM and formulate concrete recommendations to the OSCE participating States, and the OSCE, including its institutions and field operations. More information on the Forum is available at <http://www.osce.org/odihr/94459>.

Civil society representatives whose activities directly relate to the topic of the SHDM and/or the Forum and wish to attend are requested to register on-line at <http://meetings.odihr.pl> by

Wednesday, 24 October 2012. Civil society representatives are invited to forward this information to other relevant actors in the given field.

Please note that registered participants can pick up their badges for the SHDM and/or the Forum as of Tuesday, 6 November 2012, from 15:00 in the main entrance hall of the Hofburg Congress Centre. 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.

Unfortunately, the OSCE/ODIHR is not in a position to provide any financial assistance to participate in the SHDM. For your convenience, please find attached a list of hotels in Vienna. Participants are kindly requested to make their own hotel arrangements.

For more information please contact:

Substantive content matters: Ms. Nathalie Tagwerker, Deputy Head of the Democratization Department at Nathalie.Tagwerker@odihr.pl or 48 22 52 00 695 and Mr. Omer Fisher, Deputy Head of the Human Rights Department at Omer.Fisher@odihr.pl or 48 22 52 00 749.

Organizational matters: Ms. Saida Manieva at Saida.Manieva@odihr.pl or + 48 22 52 00 657

Registration: Ms. Anna Sierant at Anna.Sierant@odihr.pl or + 48 22 52 00 627

Organization of side events: Mr. Ireneusz Stepinski at Ireneusz.Stepinski@odihr.pl or +48 22 52 00 658.