

SCHEDULE OF SIDE EVENTS

to take place during the

SUPPLEMENTARY HUMAN DIMENSION MEETING DEMOCRATIZATION: STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY THROUGH EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATION

HOFBURG, VIENNA

The Helsinki Document of 1992 (Chapter IV) called for increasing the openness of OSCE activities and expanding the role of NGOs. In particular, in paragraph (15) of Chapter IV the participating States decided to facilitate during CSCE meetings informal discussion meetings between representatives of participating States and of NGOs, and to provide encouragement to NGOs organizing seminars on CSCE-related issues. In line with this decision, NGOs, governments, and other participants are encouraged to organize side meetings on relevant issues of their choice.

The opinions and information shared during the side events convened by participants do not necessarily reflect the policy of the OSCE/ ODIHR.

Thursday, 2 November	Friday, 3 November
<p><i>Title: The OSCE experience in parliamentary assistance in South East Europe</i></p> <p><i>Convenor: OSCE/ODIHR with the OSCE Missions to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, the Mission in Kosovo and Presence in Albania</i></p> <p><i>Time: 13.00-15.00</i></p> <p><i>Venue: Segmentgalerie I</i></p> <p><i>Language: English</i></p>	<p><i>Title: Launch of the ODIHR/NIMD/CIPDD Publication “The Political Landscape of Georgia” – An Interactive Assessment</i></p> <p><i>Convenor: OSCE/ODIHR, Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD, Caucasus Institute for Peace, Development & Democracy (CIPDD)</i></p> <p><i>Time: 12.00-12.30</i> <i>Venue: Segmentgalerie I</i> <i>Language: English</i></p> <p><i>Title: Strengthening Local Capacity for Parliamentary Reform and Improving the Efficiency and Transparency of Legislative Process</i></p> <p><i>Convenor: Centre for Parliamentary Reform – Georgia, OSCE Mission to Georgia, OSCE/ODIHR</i></p> <p><i>Time: 12.30-14.00</i> <i>Venue: Segmentgalerie I</i> <i>Language: English</i></p>

OVERVIEW OF SIDE EVENTS

As submitted by the organisers

2-3 November 2006

Hofburg, Vienna

The side events below have been exclusively organized and scheduled at the request of participants of the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting. The content for each meeting was prepared by the organization convening the events and does not necessarily reflect the views of the OSCE, ODIHR.

Thursday, 2 November

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Segmentgalerie I
Title: The OSCE experience in parliamentary assistance in South East Europe
Convenor: OSCE/ODIHR with the OSCE Missions to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, the Mission in Kosovo and Presence in Albania
Language: English

Summary: A number of OSCE field operations have developed and implemented major parliamentary assistance programmes in SEE, which together constitute the Organization's main expertise in this key aspect of its institution building mandate. While the fact that such projects are tailored to local needs is reflected in the specific activities, an OSCE approach to this aspect of democratization work has emerged, characterised by commitment to local ownership and sustainability.

The purpose of this event is to give an overview of what the OSCE has achieved in this field by highlighting hallmark activities from its programmes and drawing out the key lessons learned.

Refreshments will be provided

Friday, 3 November

Time: 12.00-12.30
Venue: Segmentgalerie I
Title: Launch of the ODIHR/NIMD/CIPDD Publication "The Political Landscape of Georgia" – An Interactive Assessment
Convenor: OSCE/ODIHR, Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD)
Caucasus Institute for Peace, Development & Democracy (CIPDD)
Language: English

Summary: Following the initiative of the ODIHR, a team of researchers from the NIMD and the CIPDD carried out an interactive assessment in which Georgian political parties completed a critical self-analysis and contributed to filling in the picture of today's political framework in Georgia. This 14-month research has been published in English and in Georgian in "The Political Landscape of Georgia. Political Parties: Achievements, Challenges and Prospects". The book was officially presented at a press conference in Tbilisi, Georgia in September 2006 and will be officially presented to the OSCE Institutions and Delegations as well as the SHDM participants at this side-event.

Refreshments will be provided

Friday, 3 November

Time: 12.30-14.00
Venue: Segmentgalerie I
Title: Strengthening Local Capacity for Parliamentary Reform and Improving the Efficiency and Transparency of Legislative Process
Convenor: Centre for Parliamentary Reform – Georgia, OSCE Mission to Georgia, OSCE/ODIHR
Language: English

Summary: In the summer of 2005, the ODIHR developed, upon request and in close collaboration, with the Georgian Parliament and the OSCE Mission to Georgia an initiative to boost the Parliament's capacity to formulate, strategize, implement and monitor its own reform process, thereby lessening its dependence on outside expertise. The resulting Centre for Parliamentary Reform, an innovative unit situated within the Georgian Parliament has started operations in January 2006, gradually taking on its full role. This side-event will take a closer look at the political and technical implications of such an initiative. It will also review its first six months of operations as an innovative initiative as well as discuss ways to use its full potential in its further operations.

As an integral part of this initiative was the conduct of a comprehensive assessment of the Georgian legislative system. This assessment looked at how the process is regulated, but also at how it works in practice. Based on research work and a series of interviews with senior members of government, parliament and civil servants as well as law professionals and non-governmental organizations, the assessment report includes an overview of the existing law drafting procedures and instruments as well as an assessment of these procedures and instruments with recommendations for addressing the shortcomings and loopholes identified. The assessment is a first step. Further steps may be considered and facilitated under the aegis of the Centre for Parliamentary Reform.

Refreshments will be provided

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