

SUPPLEMENTARY HUMAN DIMENSION MEETING

**FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA:
PROTECTION OF JOURNALISTS AND ACCESS TO
INFORMATION**

**13 - 14 July 2006
HOFBURG, VIENNA**

General Guidelines

**The modalities of this meeting are set out in accordance with the decision of the
Permanent Council (PC.DEC/476, 23 May 2002)**

1. Aim of the Meeting

The main objective of this Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting (the Meeting) on Freedom of the Media is to discuss the difficulties faced by media workers in the OSCE Region. During the Meeting the participants will seek to identify recommendations for best practices concerning Freedom of the Media in the OSCE.

The Meeting will address the following three subjects:

- Working Session 1: Access to Information
- Working Session 2: Freedom of Opinion and Expression: The role of voluntary professional standards in facilitating mutual respect and understanding
- Working Session 3: Protection of Journalists – Administrative Measures

Recommendations may be addressed to the participating States, the OSCE as a whole, OSCE Institutions including the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, as well as the OSCE field operations, or other inter-governmental or non-governmental organisations, as well as other civil society actors of the OSCE participating States.

2. Languages

Translations will be provided in the six working languages of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

3. Participation

Representatives of the OSCE participating States, OSCE Institutions, and OSCE field operations, representatives of international governmental organizations, representative of non-governmental organizations and other civil society actors will participate in the Meeting

The 'Partners for Co-operation' and the 'Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation' are invited to attend and contribute with respect to their co-operation and links with the OSCE in the field.

4. Guidelines for the Debates

The intend is to develop a free-flowing discussion based on the keynote speeches, introductory remarks, background information and written statements circulated in advance or during the Meeting. To this end, formal interventions in the form of prepared statements are not envisaged in the course of the Meeting and are discouraged.

Prepared statements, background documentation, comments or written materials may be submitted in advance for circulation by the Documents Distribution Centre.

5. Organization

On-line registration for all participants is available at <http://meetings.odihr.pl>. In case of any questions, please contact Ms. Anna Sierant at Anna.Sierant@odihr.pl or at tel.: +48 22 520 06 00 (ext. 4121) or Ms. Valerie Crab at valerie.crab@osce.org or at tel.: +43 1 5122 145 (ext. 14).

In addition, advance registration will be available on Thursday, 13 July 2006, from 10:00 till 15:00 in the Hofburg Congress Centre, in the main entrance hall. Registration during the Meeting is available at the same place.

6. Other

Side Events may be held in the course of the two days. Additional information on the content and objectives of any side event, as well as timing and duration will be made available shortly on the website of the Meeting.