

**SUPPLEMENTARY HUMAN DIMENSION MEETING
ON DEMOCRATIC LAWMAKING
6 to 7 November 2008
HOFBURG, VIENNA**

Side Event: Roundtable for Civil Society

**6 NOVEMBER 2008
9:00-12:00
HOFBURG, VIENNA
RATSAAL**

Annotated Agenda

The main objective of the civil society side event is to formulate recommendations for the SHDM. Following the opening remarks, an introducer will highlight existing key principles and concerns regarding the democratic lawmaking. A moderator will then open the floor for comments and remarks to all other participants.

The questions that could be addressed during the roundtable:

- How can participating States ensure full compliance with their commitment to the following:
 - Legislation must be formulated and adopted as the result of open process reflecting the will of the people;
 - Legislation adopted at the end of a public procedure, and regulations must be published, that being the condition for their applicability;
 - Those texts need to be made accessible to everyone?
- Drawing upon these commitments, what are the measures OSCE participating States need to take to ensure greater transparency and efficiency of their lawmaking systems?
- In particular, how can the lawmaking process be made more transparent and accessible to civil society, in particular groups affected by the legislation? How can government be made more responsible to the needs and interests of these groups?
- What should be the methods used by governments and parliaments to make draft legislation publicly accessible?
- How can participating States learn and apply new technologies for facilitating public access to legislation?
- What limitations to access to legislation are legitimate and what are those that are not legitimate?
- In general, how can greater public acceptance of legislative proposals be developed?
- How can lawmakers be empowered through broader access to precedents and solutions in use in other participating States? How can co-operation between international organizations providing legal advice on national legislation be strengthened and made more efficient?
- What legislative assistance programmes can better contribute to increasing transparency of the legislative processes in the OSCE region? How can OSCE and ODIHR assist participating States in this regard, but also in broadening exposure of their lawmakers to modern methods of management of the legislative process?

- 9:00 – 9:30 **Welcoming coffee**
- 9:30 – 9:45 **Opening remarks**
- Mr. Toralv Nordbo, First Deputy Director,
 OSCE/ODIHR
- Ambassador Antti Turunen, Chairman of the OSCE
 Permanent Council, Finland
- Mr. Denis Petit, Head of the Legislative Support Unit,
 OSCE/ODIHR
- 9:45 – 11:45 **Discussion and adoption of recommendations**
- Moderator: Mr. Serghei Ostaf, Director of the NGO Resource
 Center “CReDO”, Republic of Moldova
- Introducer: Ms. Tanja Trendafilovska, Legal Consultant, former
 Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- 11:45 – 12:00 **Closing Session**
- Moderator: Mr. Denis Petit, Head of the Legislative Support
 Unit, OSCE/ODIHR
- 12:00 – 13:00 Buffet lunch offered by OSCE/ODIHR

English-Russian simultaneous translation will be provided during the side event.