

MISSION EUROPA

ENGLISH only

OSCE SUPPLEMENTARY HUMAN DIMENSION MEETING ON FREEDOMS OF PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION, WITH EMPHASIS ON FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION

Thursday 16 and Friday 17 April 2015

Mission Europa fully agrees with ODIHR with regard to the importance of freedoms of peaceful assembly, association and expression.

Mission Europa also shares the position of ODIHR that a culture of dialogue and trust between states and individuals can serve to achieve democracy

A culture of dialogue and trust between states and individuals will lead to a better understanding of public concerns, reducing the risk that conflicts escalate into violence.

In 2008 on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the „UN-Declaration of Human Rights“, Mission Europa joined the platform „Solidarity with persecuted Christians“.

From that date onward, this platform has organized an annual torchlight procession. Additionally, Mission Europa has joined organizations of Oriental Christians, including Copts, Arameans, Chaldeans, Syrians.

Notwithstanding the seriousness of the persecution of Christians and the considerable number of participants, most politicians have not shown any interest in entering a dialog with the organizers.

In the case of Austria, this neglect of "Dialogue with civil society" has led to an insufficient legislation on Islam. The recently published law on Islam only insufficiently reflects the theological roots of persecutions of Christians.

Mission Europa therefore recommends:

- That OSCE calls on participating States to find ways and means for the culture of dialogue in the sense of participatory democracy mentioned in this document