



Intervention by Bürgerbewegung Pax Europa

OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

Working Session 7

Fundamental Freedoms I, Tolerance and Non-Discrimination

Warsaw, September 14, 2017

The Annotated Agenda commendably refers to the 1990 Copenhagen Document, which “recognize[d] that pluralistic democracy and the rule of law are essential for ensuring respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms.”

The Copenhagen document refers to “the important role of non-governmental organizations ... in the promotion of tolerance, cultural diversity and the resolution of questions relating to national minorities.” Non-governmental organizations that favor the imposition of Sharia would be incompatible with a democratic framework and therefore excluded by law from the roster of groups included in the document’s ambit.

To use the Copenhagen Document as an excuse to shut down fundamental freedoms, to which it refers 21 times, including especially free expression, to which it explicitly refers twice, in order to protect advocates of Sharia, which the ECHR has held is incompatible with democracy, is a travesty that will cost human lives, and potentially shatter the foundations of European civilization in the process.

Accordingly, Pax Europa recommends that:

1. Participating States should reiterate their commitment in the Copenhagen Document to the ideals of democracy and political pluralism as well as their common determination to build democratic societies based on free elections and the rule of law.
2. Participating States should renew their commitment to the Copenhagen Document's commitment to freedom of expression, which is being systematically impeded by Participating States in an effort to stifle criticism of Islam.
3. Participating States should reiterate the Copenhagen Document's commitment against totalitarianism, anti-Semitism, and persecution on religious grounds, noting that the Islamic law known as Sharia mandates and results in all three.

Thank you.