



**SUPPLEMENTARY HUMAN DIMENSION MEETING  
ON  
FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY, ASSOCIATION AND EXPRESSION:  
FOSTERING FULL AND EQUAL PARTICIPATION IN PLURALIST  
SOCIETIES**

**29 - 30 March 2007  
HOFBURG, VIENNA**

**To non-governmental organisations**

Please find attached the agenda and general guidelines relating to the upcoming OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Freedom of Assembly, Association and Expression to be held at the Hofburg Congress Centre in Vienna on 29 - 30 March 2007. Additional information relevant to this Meeting can be found on ODIHR website at <http://www.osce.org/odihr> .

This Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting seeks to address how the full implementation of the rights to freedom of association, peaceful assembly and expression can be advanced and secured in order to promote the development of an inclusive and diverse society as well as long-term security. It will identify the challenges faced by governments throughout the OSCE region in ensuring that all citizens have an equal opportunity to express their opinions and interests, either collectively or individually. It will focus on the ways to overcome obstacles to the implementation of these rights and seek to explore how in a continually evolving society, participating States can benefit from the full implementation of these rights to engage in a meaningful dialogue with civil society.

The meeting will focus on the following three areas:

- Freedom of association in the OSCE region – challenges and opportunities
- Freedom of peaceful assembly in the OSCE region – challenges and opportunities
- Freedom of expression and the role of the media in a pluralist society

The conference attracts government officials, OSCE delegations, NGOs and civil society, regional and international organizations, and is therefore seen as an important forum for discussing cross-sectoral issues. For the ODIHR it is a unique opportunity to put issues relating to freedom of assembly, association and expression on the political agenda.

NGOs whose activities directly relate to the topic of the Meeting and wish to attend are requested to register on-line for this event by Wednesday, 14 March 2007. **On-line registration is available at <http://meetings.odihr.pl>**. In case of any questions, please contact Ms. Anna Sierant at [Anna.Sierant@odihr.pl](mailto:Anna.Sierant@odihr.pl) or at tel.: +48 22 520 06 00 (ext. 4121).

NGOs are invited to forward this information to other relevant actors in the given field.

Please note that participants can pick up their passes for the meeting venue in advance on Thursday, 29 March 2007 from 10.00 at the Hofburg Congress Centre, Segmentgalerie.

NGOs may display information materials about their organization on the tables in the lobby of the main meeting room. NGOs may also distribute documents during the Meeting by giving one copy of each document (maximum 3 pages in length) to staff of the Document Distribution Centre - referably by e-mail [elke.lidarik@osce.org](mailto:elke.lidarik@osce.org) . NGOs are encouraged to participate actively in the Working Sessions while limiting their interventions to the specific issues at hand thereby contributing to a genuine discussion.

Unfortunately, the ODIHR is not in a position to provide any financial assistance for NGOs to participate in this Meeting. For your convenience please find attached a list of hotels in Vienna. NGOs are kindly requested to make their own hotel arrangements.

For further information please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Mark Guthrie, Deputy Head of the Human Rights Department, ODIHR at [Mark.Guthrie@odihr.pl](mailto:Mark.Guthrie@odihr.pl) and Ms. Anna Sierant, ODIHR Administrative Assistant at [Anna.Sierant@odihr.pl](mailto:Anna.Sierant@odihr.pl) or [office@odihr.pl](mailto:office@odihr.pl) .