



Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

**IMPLEMENTATION MEETING
ON HUMAN DIMENSION ISSUES**

CONSOLIDATED SUMMARY

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Warsaw, 26 October - 6 November 1998

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I. INTRODUCTION

The OSCE Implementation Meeting on Human Dimension Issues took place on 26 October – 6 November, 1998 in Warsaw. The Meeting was organised by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

The Meeting was the fourth of its kind. It reviewed implementation of the full range of OSCE Human Dimension commitments in all 55 OSCE States.

The Meeting was not mandated to produce any negotiated texts, but summary report prepared by the Rapporteurs of the working groups was presented in the final plenary meeting.

II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In an important innovation aimed at strengthening the OSCE's Human Dimension implementation review process, and in line with the new modalities for Human Dimension Meetings adopted in July 1998, this year's meeting was shorter and more focused. NGOs were given equal access to the speaker's list. Background reports were prepared by ODIHR on Human Dimension issues of particular interest. Reports prepared by all OSCE Missions on their respective Human Dimension activities helped streamline discussions.

In addition to the plenary sessions, several side events were held at the conference site, which were open to all participants (An informal meeting with the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, and roundtables on freedom of religion, gender issues, prevention of torture, and national policies on Roma and Sinti). These informal meetings allowed for freer dialogue and the discussion of concrete follow-up activities.

The Implementation meeting was the fourth of its kind and gathered the highest number of participants (more than 700) with a particularly large representation of NGOs (186) and OSCE Long Term Missions (24 participants representing 13 missions) as compared to previous years.

The opening plenary of the Meeting was addressed by the Chairman-in-Office, Polish Foreign Minister Bronisław Geremek, as well as the Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Ambassador Gérard Stoudmann, the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, Mr. Max Van der Stoel, and the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Mr. Freimut Duve. Minister Geremek, in his opening Statement, emphasized that respect for human rights is a condition for, not an obstacle to, long-term stability. He noted that the OSCE has made significant progress in its human dimension activities in its more than 20 years of existence. In addition, OSCE Secretary General Giancarlo Aragona and the Director of the OSCE Kosovo Verification Mission, Ambassador William Walker addressed the closing plenary.

The delegations of participating States and NGOs made a wide range of recommendations on Human Dimension Problems. They also suggested a range of issues that might be discussed in the 1999 Human Dimension Seminar and informal Supplementary Human Dimension meetings (racism, torture, gender equality, trafficking of women, Roma and Sinti, freedom of religion, freedom of association, national minorities, and the place of the Human Dimension in the OSCE Security Charter). Other recommendations addressed the implementation of OSCE commitments in participating States, as well as relevant programmes for OSCE institutions. These suggestions are compiled in the Rapporteurs' report. The Moderator, Ambassador Leif Mevik of Norway, and several delegations and NGOs also made suggestions concerning the practical modalities for future meetings.

III. INDICATIVE AGENDA

1. Opening Plenary.

The plenary proceedings consisted of:

- (a) Opening statements, including a statement by the representative of the Chairman-in-Office;
- (b) Report of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities;
- (c) Report of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media;
- (d) Report of the Director of ODIHR.

2. Review of the Implementation of Human Dimension commitments and the procedures for monitoring compliance with them.

A thorough dialogue on the implementation of Human Dimension commitments by participating States in the OSCE area, a consideration of ways and means of improving implementation, on the basis of the broadest possible information, in particular from OSCE bodies and institutions, as well as a review of the procedures and mechanisms for monitoring and enhancing compliance with particular commitments. The discussion was structured in the following order:

(a) Sessions 1-2

Rule of Law, including:

- Legislative transparency;
- Independence of the judiciary;
- Right to a fair trial.

Exchange of information on the question of the abolition of capital punishment;

Democratic institutions, including:

- Free and fair elections;
- Democracy at the national, regional and local levels;

Citizenship and political rights;

Civic education.

(b) Sessions 3-6

Human rights and fundamental freedoms, including:

- Freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief;
- Freedom of expression, free media and information;
- Freedom of association and the right of peaceful assembly;
- Freedom of movement;
- Prevention of torture;
- International humanitarian law.

(c) Sessions 7-8

Tolerance and non-discrimination:

- Equality of opportunity for men and women;
- Preventing aggressive nationalism;
- Ethnic cleansing;
- Racism;
- Chauvinism;
- Xenophobia;
- Anti-semitism;

Migration, refugees and displaced persons;
Migrant workers.

(d) Session 9

Culture and education;
Cultural heritage;
Human contacts;
Treatment of citizens of other participating States.

(e) Sessions 10-11

National minorities;
Roma and Sinti.

(f) Sessions 12-13

Human Dimension mechanisms and other relevant procedures.

Further integration of the Human Dimension in the regular activities of the Permanent Council.

The functioning of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

Elections observation: reports, procedures and co-operation framework.

Further integration of the Human Dimension in the work of the OSCE long- and short-term Missions.

Programme of Co-ordinated Support for recently admitted participating States.

Improved dissemination of information regarding the Human Dimension.

Human Dimension seminars and regional seminars.

Co-operation between the OSCE and other international organisations.

(g) Session 14

Role of NGOs, including:

- Contribution of NGOs to the Human Dimension;
- Co-operation between relevant NGOs and OSCE Institutions and instruments;
- Strengthening dialogue between Governments and NGOs.

3. Closing Plenary

- (a) Presentation by the Rapporteurs;
- (b) Concluding statements.

IV. ORGANISATIONAL MODALITIES

1. The Implementation Meeting began with the plenary meeting. Discussions in subsequent working sessions reviewed both the implementation of Human Dimension commitments and the procedures and mechanisms for monitoring and enhancing compliance with these commitments. The activities of the High Commissioner on National Minorities, the OSCE Representatives on Freedom of the Media and the Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues were addressed in the context of discussions on individual items relevant to their respective activities. In addition, two separate sessions were devoted to the procedures and mechanisms for monitoring and enhancing compliance with Human Dimension commitments. The last two days of the meeting were reserved for plenary sessions.

One moderator and two rapporteurs were appointed on the basis of a proposals by the Chairman-in-Office following appropriate consultations.

4. Broad attendance of representatives of all the participating States, in particular those recently admitted, was essential. Upon request, financial assistance could have been provided from the OSCE Voluntary Fund to foster the integration of recently admitted participating States.

Participating States were represented at a high level, in particular at the closing plenary sessions, by those responsible for shaping their policies regarding Human Dimension issues.

Heads of other international organisations and institutions having relevant experience in the Human Dimension field were invited to participate, in particular in the closing plenary sessions.

3. The High Commissioner on National Minorities, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and the Director of the ODIHR were invited to participate in the meeting. They and/or their representatives took part in discussions on all individual items relevant to the activities of their respective institution/body in order to assist the participating States in reviewing, *inter alia*, the institutional aspects of the implementation of OSCE Human Dimension commitments.

Heads of OSCE Missions and field activities were invited to participate in the meeting. They and/or their representatives could contribute to any session of the meeting relevant to their activities.

4. All sessions were opened to non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The participation of NGOs in discussions was in conformity with the relevant OSCE decisions, and in particular the new modalities for the OSCE meetings on Human Dimension issues.

In order to provide better opportunities for contacts among delegates and NGOs, no formal sessions were scheduled for the afternoon of 29 October and the morning of 5 November 1998.

5. In accordance with OSCE precedent and practice, all aspects of the Human Dimension were discussed during the Implementation Meeting on Human Dimension Issues. The meeting aimed at enhancing co-operation to facilitate the implementation of Human Dimension commitments.

V. PARTICIPATION

The Meeting was attended by a total number of 590 participants. 245 representatives of 49 participating States took part in it*. Delegations of Japan and Korea, partners for co-operation, as well as of Egypt and Israel, Mediterranean partners for co-operation were also present.

In addition, delegates from 8 international institutions were represented: Council of Europe, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, International Committee of the Red Cross, International Labour Organisation, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, UNESCO and UN Development Programme.

At the Meeting, 287 representatives of 186 non-governmental organisations were present.

VI. RAPORTEURS REPORTS

The Fourth Implementation Meeting on Human Dimension Issues was held in Warsaw from 26 October to 6 November 1998, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the CSCE Helsinki Document 1992, and the decisions of the Permanent Council on the organizational modalities, agenda, and work program for the meeting and the new modalities for OSCE meetings on Human Dimension Meetings adopted in July 1998.

* The participation of delegations from new democracies was substantially facilitated by contributions from the OSCE Voluntary Fund as well as voluntary contributions from the Governments of Norway, United States and Japanese-German Centre Berlin.

The new modalities, aimed at strengthening and increasing the efficiency of OSCE's Human Dimension implementation review process, resulted in a shorter, more focused meeting. In accordance with these new procedures, NGOs were given equal access to the speakers' list, encouraging more dialogue. The new procedures also foresee, as a rule, three informal Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings to be held in Vienna to discuss key substantive concerns raised at the Human Dimension Implementation Review Meeting and to ensure follow-up for them as well as for OSCE Human Dimension Seminars. Participants in the Fourth Human Dimension Implementation Review Meeting put forward their recommendations for topics for these informal supplementary meetings.

The opening plenary of the Meeting was addressed by the Chairman-in-Office, Polish Foreign Minister Bronislaw Geremek, the Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Ambassador Gerard Stoudmann, the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, Mr. Max Van der Stoel, and the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Mr. Freimut Duve. In addition, OSCE Secretary General Giancarlo Aragona and the Director of the OSCE Kosovo Verification Mission, Ambassador William Walker addressed the closing plenary. Minister Geremek, in his opening Statement, emphasized that respect for human rights is a condition for, not an obstacle to, long-term stability. He noted that the OSCE has made significant progress in its human dimension activities in its more than 20 years of existence.

In addition to the representatives of the OSCE participating States and representatives of the OSCE institutions and missions, two Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation (Egypt and Israel), two Partners for Cooperation (Japan and Korea), representatives of eight international organizations and approximately 200 NGOs attended the Meeting.

In accordance with the procedural provisions, the working sessions reviewing both the implementation of Human Dimension commitments and the procedures and mechanisms for monitoring and enhancing compliance with these commitments were moderated by Ambassador Leif Mevik of Norway. The rapporteur's report was prepared by Mr. Guillaume Scheurer of Switzerland and Ms. Janice Helwig of the United States. *This report is not a consensus document; its contents are the sole responsibility of the rapporteurs.*

In addition to the Meeting, several side events were held at the conference site which were open to all Meeting participants. These included a meeting with the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, a roundtable on freedom of religion, a roundtable on gender issues, a roundtable on preventing torture, and a two-session roundtable on national policies on Roma and Sinti. These informal meetings allowed for freer dialogue. There was strong, widespread support for them; summaries of these meetings will be distributed by the ODIHR.

There was strong attention paid during the Meeting to the establishment of the OSCE Kosovo Verification Mission. As Minister Geremek emphasized in his opening Statement, "the outbreak and escalation of the conflict in Kosovo plus the Albanian crisis have put our Organization to a severe test." In addition to the Implementation

Meeting and its side events, a high-level meeting on human dimension aspects of the KVM was held.

Rule of law

Several participating States underlined that the rule of law is a fundamental element of a democratic State, helping to ensure its security, stability and peace. They also reiterated some central features of rule of law, such as the need to ensure distribution of power among executive, legislative and judiciary branches of government, and emphasized the importance of an independent and impartial justice system.

Participants acknowledged the importance of full compliance with OSCE commitments in this area; however several NGOs and some participating States identified a number of shortcomings and raised several cases of individuals whose human rights have been violated. They raised concerns over the absence of fair trials and due process of law, the lack of full application of laws, the lack of transparency in court procedures, and poor conditions of detention especially for children. Concerns also were expressed over the judicial system in some participating States, particularly insufficient staff, low salary and inadequate legal education, the political nature of judicial appointments hindering independent decisions, practices of corruption, and the excessive use of force by law enforcement officials. A particular concern was mentioned about efforts by some States to prevent the establishment of, or to undermine the practice of an independent legal profession.

It was noted that proper training of judges, judicial administrators, and lawyers is essential. Attention was drawn to the need to foster a safer climate for human rights defenders. Many participating States expressed their readiness to help establish democratic institutions based on the rule of law in countries experiencing problems.

Some participating States described the operation of the judicial system in their respective countries and elaborated on reforms they are undertaking in judicial procedure and of relevant legislation. They highlighted the importance of the institution of the ombudsman. One delegation drew attention to the need for better planning and coordination among its parliament, governmental ministries and international experts, and expressed the hope that cooperation with the ODIHR and the Council of Europe could increase the efficiency of its legislative process.

Recommendations from the discussions:

- *Many participating States encouraged those countries that have difficulties in complying with their commitments as regards the rule of law to take advantage of the experience of other participating States and ask them, the ODIHR, and other relevant international organizations for appropriate technical assistance.*
- *Some participating States asked that the ODIHR devote particular attention to the protection of the rights of children in its rule of law activities.*

Exchange of information on the question of the abolition of capital punishment

Many participating States and NGO's asserted that capital punishment was in direct contradiction with one of the most fundamental human right, the right of life, an inherent right of all human beings enshrined first of all in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. One participating State countered that the possible deterrent effect of the death penalty was unproven, and that public sentiments probably would not form a basis for its abolition. Several participating States and NGOs mentioned that a number of OSCE documents call for keeping this question under consideration in the OSCE, for co-operation on the subject within relevant international organisations, for exchange of information on the question of the abolition of the death penalty, and for making available to the public information regarding the use of the death penalty.

Some NGOs noted various positive steps taken by some OSCE participating States towards abolition of the death penalty, including its formal abolition in national legislation, plans for abolishing some provisions of the death penalty, a reduction of the number of crimes considered capital crimes, the signature or ratification of Protocol 6 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedom, and a de facto moratorium on executions in some countries which have not legally outlawed it. Many participating States and NGOs expressed the view that the abolition of the death penalty should be seen in the context of fundamental international instruments to protect human rights. They stressed this is particularly true of Protocol 6, the ratification of which is a core commitment for members of the Council of Europe, as well as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its Second Optional Protocol. They welcomed the resolution adopted this year by the UN Commission on Human Rights which asks member States to institute a moratorium on the death penalty and also the EU Declaration adopted this year on the abolition of the death penalty.

Several participating States and NGOs expressed concern that death sentences continue to be passed and executions carried out in a number of OSCE participating States. Particular concern was raised over the use of capital punishment on juvenile or mentally impaired offenders. It was also noted that, in violation of OSCE commitments, a few participating States do not disclose details about their use of the death penalty and have not made basic information public. Finally, concerns were expressed that in some regions, sentences are passed and executions carried out without due process of law. It was argued out this cannot be justified on religious grounds.

One participating State acknowledged that the question of capital punishment is a difficult one even in its own country, but pointed out that each country has a right to decide on this subject according to its own constitutional rules and that, under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, States may apply the death penalty. It pointed out that there is no OSCE commitment to abolish the death penalty and rejected allegations that its policy on this issue reflects a systematic disregard for international human rights standards.

Recommendations from the discussion:

- *Several participating States and NGOs urged that all OSCE countries abolish the death penalty as soon as possible. Serious concerns were raised in regard to the*

use of capital punishment on juvenile or mentally impaired offenders.

- *Several participating States and NGOs asked that the OSCE consider introducing concrete measures aimed at facilitating the exchange of information on the question of the abolition of the death penalty.*
- *Some NGOs and international organizations suggested that OSCE participating States encourage ODIHR and OSCE Missions, in cooperation with the COE, to develop activities aimed at raising awareness against recourse to the death penalty, particularly with media circles, law enforcement officials, policy-makers, and the general public.*

Democratic institutions, citizenship and political rights, civic education

Participants discussed basic OSCE commitments in the area of democratic institutions. Some participating States underlined that elections in any OSCE country are not only of concern to its own citizens, but also of concern to the whole OSCE community. They emphasized that freedoms of assembly, movement, expression and association are as important as the conduct of free and fair elections. All these commitments constitute the core of democratic society. The importance of independent media and fair access to it for all candidates and parties during an election campaign was stressed, and concerns were expressed regarding the lack of this in some recent elections. Some participating States also expressed concerns about individuals who could not vote because they were wrongfully denied citizenship, the lack of freedom for opposition parties to function in two countries, an insufficient appeals procedure in one country, alleged connections between candidates and criminal organizations in some countries, and the tendency in a few countries to cancel scheduled presidential elections and instead extend presidential tenure by means of referenda. One NGO raised particular concern about possible distortion of results when ballots allow only one answer to a series of amendments or questions.

Many participating States and NGOs expressed support for the work of the ODIHR in election monitoring, and stressed the importance of ODIHR's technical assistance to improve the electoral process in some countries and of follow-up to it. They welcomed cooperation in this field among the ODIHR, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, other international organizations and NGOs. Some participating States said they are counting on ODIHR's support.

Participants highlighted the importance of developing local democratic institutions and the necessity to provide sufficient financial resources to local governments in order to make them more effective and able to carry out their duties in an independent manner. They expressed concern that the lack of a legal framework in many countries is resulting in the absence of clear division between State- and local-level tasks and powers. Other concerns mentioned include a lack of funds at the local level for organizing elections which results in a low participation level and therefore undermines the legitimacy of the results. One participating State recalled that some countries which had not taken measures to decentralize are now confronted with secessionism.

Many positive steps were reported on the issues of citizenship and political rights. Some participants expressed concern that a number of countries have not made any significant progress in redressing citizenship problems because of slow and complicated application procedures, discriminatory policies, and extremely long residency requirements for citizenship. In this context, one participating State stressed that obligations of countries towards residents in the case of State succession are not the same as obligations of countries in the case of immigrants from elsewhere. Several participating States provided detailed information on steps they are taking to integrate non-citizens into their societies.

UNHCR described its current activities to reduce statelessness and noted that international cooperation is essential in this field. The Council of Europe noted that the European Convention on Nationality is expected to enter into force in 1999.

Some participating States underscored the importance of education in fostering tolerance and in the promotion of and respect for human rights. The Council of Europe and UNESCO described their numerous activities in this field.

Recommendations from the discussions:

- *Some delegations encouraged the development of conditions for free and fair elections which the OSCE will be supervising in Kosovo. Early ODIHR involvement in developing an electoral framework and process in Kosovo with a strong focus on human rights monitoring by the OSCE mission was proposed.*
- *Several participants recommended that promotion of the participation of minorities in the political process should be given special consideration.*
- *Some delegations encouraged OSCE States to enhance locally-elected government in order to strengthen democracy in some countries.*
- *Some participating States, NGOs, and international organizations appealed to all countries to quickly resolve citizenship problems in their countries and to foster integration in order to reduce Statelessness.*
- *Several delegations recommended that a mechanism be established within the OSCE to share information on education, and that the ODIHR act as a clearinghouse for information coming from participating States, NGOs, and relevant international organizations.*

Freedom of thought, conscience, and religion or belief

Many participating States and NGOs expressed concern that religious intolerance in the OSCE region is increasing. This is reflected in legislation that discriminates against some religious groups, as well as government actions that can foster public intolerance. In this context, a participating State drew a distinction between the rights of individuals to worship and the registration of religious organizations. Several participants also raised concern that there is growing intolerance of Muslims as well as of non-traditional religious organizations. A group of States said that fostering

religious tolerance is an important part of conflict prevention. One participating State pointed out that religion and ethnicity often are linked and that this can intensify discrimination.

A group of States said that the restoration of religious liberty in many OSCE countries has brought with it new problems. In this context, many participating States and NGOs raised concerns about new laws, which have been created to deal with the new situation; some laws are actually helping create discrimination, rather than eliminating it. In several other OSCE States, legislation gives privileges to traditional religious communities. Some participants noted that some governments have created commissions to investigate and report on minority religious organizations, and that the resulting lists of “sects” could give the public a negative view of these organizations and incite discrimination against them. Other countries use strict registration laws to limit the activities of religious groups or even arrest them for participating in illegal gatherings. Some participants stressed that many countries lack a mechanism to facilitate dialogue between religious groups and the government.

Several participating States responded that although they know there are problems with their legislation, these have not led to any rise in discrimination. They argued that tolerance and religious freedom is protected broadly under their constitutions and other legislation. One participating State said its new law is being reviewed to ensure it is in accordance with its constitution. Several States responded that registration and other problems are being addressed normally through their judicial systems.

Several participating States pointed out that governments sometimes go too far in fighting extremism; it should not be used to justify such violations of human rights as arbitrary arrests and beatings. Some governments use fear of Islamic extremism to justify actions against Muslims in general. Muslim minorities often are targets of discrimination in non-Muslim countries.

Many participating States and NGOs supported the work of the ODIHR Advisory Panel on Religious Freedom and welcomed the roundtable on religious freedom which took place as a side event during the Meeting. They stressed their hope that the panel continue its work and looked forward to proposals from it for concrete programs.

A group of States and some NGOs expressed concern that some participating States do not recognize the right to conscientious objection of military service. Among those that do, alternatives often are much longer than military service and can be perceived as a punishment.

Recommendations from the discussion:

- *Several participating States and NGOs urged that countries ensure that their legislation protects religious freedom and that it is drafted so that it has no negative consequences. To assist with this, some participating States and NGOs asked that the ODIHR conduct an assessment of OSCE countries legislation on the subject.*
- *Several NGOs and participating States recommended that legislation balance*

respect for traditional, majority religions with protection of, and freedom for minority and non-traditional religious groups.

- *Some participating States and NGOs recommended developing mechanisms to foster dialogue between governments and religious groups.*
- *Several participating States recommended that one of the supplementary human dimension meetings to take place in Vienna in 1999 should focus on freedom of religion.*
- *Many participating States and several NGOs advocated the continuation and development of the work of the Advisory Panel on Religious Freedom.*
- *Many participating States and some NGOs recommended that countries with compulsory military service should ensure that fair alternatives are provided to conscientious objectors.*

Freedom of expression, free media, and information

Many delegations underlined the critical role of free expression and free media in the functioning of democracies. Government control of mass media hinders democratic development and public access to information. It also can negatively influence the conduct of elections. Restrictions on freedom of the media often are an early warning indicator of potential conflict and usually are greatest in areas of conflict and in countries in transition. One State stressed that independent media also can play an important role in post-conflict reconciliation. Some participating States and NGOs lamented hindrances to the development of minority-language media and cultural expression in some OSCE States.

One participating State raised concern over criminal defamation laws which often are used against media that criticize the government. An NGO said its registration had been terminated after it criticized the conduct of a recent referendum in a participating State. Several NGOs brought up cases in which laws against promoting terrorism or separatism were misused to imprison journalists. Some NGOs and participating States raised the situation in one country where they said virtually all media are now State-controlled; independent media have been largely shut down. That country responded that, on the contrary, independent and international media were widely available. Several participating States raised concerns over the case of a scientist in one country who is accused of revealing State secrets; they hoped his case would be resolved properly through the court system. Many States and NGOs flagged the deteriorating situation of independent media in one suspended State. Two States raised concerns over the lack of free expression and independent media in parts of their countries not fully under their control.

Some participating States argued for a balance between protection of independent media and safeguards against the propagation of erroneous information damaging to individuals or national security. Journalists should not have free license to break the law in the name of free media. Some participating States explained the efforts they are

undertaking to protect freedom of the media through legislation and subsidies for minority language media.

The work of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, particularly in conflict situations and in transitional countries, was broadly supported.

The Council of Europe pledged to continue to cooperate closely with the OSCE and the Representative on Freedom of the Media, particularly concerning analysis of media legislation.

Recommendations from the discussions:

- *Many participating States and NGOs asked that the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media continue his work to strengthen and protect independent media, and particularly concentrate on conflict situations and transitional countries. One participating State asked that he help ensure persons belonging to minorities can receive information in their mother tongue. Several participants also supported his further developing cooperation with other OSCE institutions and international organizations.*
- *A group of States recommended that ODIHR assist some participating States to revise their legislation affecting the media. One NGO asked that the ODIHR conduct a comparative analysis of legislation affecting media in the OSCE region.*
- *One participating State and one NGO asked that freedom of the media be one of the topics for the supplementary Human Dimension meetings to be held in Vienna in 1999.*

Freedom of association and the right of peaceful assembly

Some participating States and NGOs said that it is crucial to the exercise of democracy that citizens can meet and express their views; this includes political parties, trade unions, and NGOs. This right is hindered in some OSCE countries by prohibitive registration procedures and restrictions against or constraints on peaceful demonstrations. Some NGOs said cultural organizations were not allowed to register or to meet in some countries. In other countries, there is an uneven application of laws resulting in discrimination against minority groups. Some NGOs said that groups in opposition to the government often are not allowed to register and therefore cannot legally meet.

One participating State countered NGO information and said that trade unions operate freely in its system. Problems with freedom of assembly occurred early on, as citizens originally took this as a license to do anything, and police often reacted wrongly; but the situation has improved over the past few years.

Recommendations from the discussion:

- *Some participating States and NGOs urged countries to ensure their legislation*

and practices protect the right of assembly and allow organizations to register and meet.

Freedom of movement

Some participating States and NGOs expressed concern that the basic right of people to choose their place of residence is not fully respected in all OSCE States. Some participants expressed the view that movement of people also encourages tolerance and understanding. Other participating States stressed that a balance must be found to allow freedom of movement while simultaneously protecting against trafficking in people, drugs, and arms. According to one participating State, some countries particularly restrict freedom of travel of human rights activists and political opposition leaders.

Some NGOs expressed concern about the lack of freedom of movement for persons left Stateless after the dissolution of the former Soviet Union because some OSCE States do not yet accept the aliens' passports issued by the countries where these people currently reside. Other NGOs and some participating States said western countries over-regulate travel of citizens from some transitional countries.

One participating State and an international organization raised concern over the continued use of the "propiska" system in some countries; required exit visas also hinder the ability of citizens of some OSCE States to travel freely. The "propiska" sometimes has been replaced with another restrictive procedure. The requirement to register a place of residence to obtain services such as access to health care and education have a particularly harsh effect on refugees. It also poses particular problems for Roma.

One participating State said it had curbed the use of the "propiska" system and now uses a system of notification of change of residence; more work needs to be done, however, to ensure that local authorities are implementing the new federal regulations. Problems with limiting the right of persons who had access to State secrets to leave the country is exacerbated by problems with old contracts which did not explain the restriction to the person entering into it.

UNHCR reported on the December 1997 Experts Group Meeting on freedom of movement and choice of place of residence which was held jointly with ODIHR and the Council of Europe.

Recommendations from the discussion:

- *A group of States recommended that police and law enforcement officials should cooperate fully and exchange information to combat trafficking and the movement of criminals.*
- *Some participating States and NGOs recommended that countries still using the propiska system -- or something similar -- should abolish it.*
- *One NGO suggested that participating States work to ensure protection for*

asylum seekers.

Prevention of Torture

Some participating States said torture was a particularly forceful weapon against democracy as it silences both victims and others afraid to suffer the same fate. In addition, since family members sometimes were forced to watch, they too suffered the effects of torture. Several States said that security concerns never justify the use of torture.

One participating State and some NGOs expressed concern that doctors who aid torture victims are sometimes harassed by governments, rather than supported by them. Two participating States discussed reports of torture in areas of their countries over which they do not have complete control.

One participating State discussed the progress it has made in stopping the use of torture by security forces. It stressed that any current problems were isolated incidents, rather than part of an overall pattern.

One participating State noted that minorities, including Roma and Sinti, are disproportionately the victims of torture. One NGO said that rates of prosecution of law enforcement personnel are particularly low in cases alleging police brutality against minorities. Such allegations often are not adequately investigated in some OSCE States.

Some participating States discussed their problems in improving situations in their prisons due to a lack of funds. Poor prison conditions often include overcrowding -- sometimes resulting in the spread of disease -- as well as poor food and medical care.

Many participating States expressed support for the establishment of and the work of the ODIHR Advisory Panel on the Prevention of Torture.

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture told the meeting he collects information on alleged cases of torture and, depending on the urgency of the case, sometimes intervenes directly with States. Otherwise, he gives to the UN a yearly summary of his work and countries' responses to it. He plans to visit two OSCE States in the near future.

Recommendations from the discussion:

- *Many participating States and NGOs suggested all OSCE States ensure they have medical centers to treat and rehabilitate victims of torture.*
- *Several participating States and NGOs urged all countries to ratify the United Nations Convention Against Torture and urged parties to the European Convention on the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment to ratify Protocol Number 1 which opens the Convention to States not members of the Council of Europe. They added that legal obligations in accordance with international law should be put into countries' national legislation.*

- *A group of States recommended that countries give more training to their law enforcement officials, as well as to medical personnel.*
- *Several participating States and NGOs urged that countries do everything possible to bring to justice those who commit torture.*
- *A group of States and some NGOs recommended that the ODIHR Advisory Panel on the Prevention of Torture be strengthened with the addition of medical experts.*
- *Some participating States recommended that prevention of torture be included in training programs for OSCE mission members.*

International Humanitarian Law

Some participating States stressed that even during conflict situations, countries must respect their international human rights obligations. Several participating States and NGOs expressed concern that children are sometimes recruited to fight in armed conflicts -- both by government or non-governmental groups. One State said use and transfer of small arms should be curbed, particularly to prevent access of arms for children.

A group of States and some NGOs welcomed the Rome decision to establish an international criminal court. Several participating States expressed strong support for the International Criminal Tribunal on the former Yugoslavia. Some States recommended the formulation of minimum humanitarian law standards.

A group of States brought up their concern over the use of anti-personnel landmines. They, and other States and NGOs, welcomed the Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production, and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction.

Recommendations from the discussions:

- *A group of States and some NGOs urged that all countries ratify the of the international criminal court.*
- *Some countries urged that all participating States ratify the Protocols to the Geneva Conventions.*
- *Some participating States recommended that countries ensure their national legislation is in accordance with their international human rights obligations.*
- *Some States asked that international standards to protect children in combat situations be developed. A group of States supported having the recruitment of children to fight in armed conflicts regarded as a war crime under international law.*

Equality of opportunity for men and women

Several participating States stressed that full and true equality between men and women is a fundamental aspect of a democratic society and recalled specific OSCE commitments related to this subject. They noted that much remains to be done to implement these commitments. Many participants called for gender issues to be “mainstreamed” in all OSCE activities and policies. The April 1998 informal meeting on the issue in Vienna was particularly welcomed, and participants noted with appreciation that the incoming CiO was willing to organize a follow-up meeting in early 1999. Many participants expressed full support for the appointments of gender focal points within the OSCE Secretariat and the ODIHR. The Declaration of the Meeting of women members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Copenhagen in July 1998 and the background paper “Women and Democratization” provided by the ODIHR also were welcomed. Many participating States acknowledged that NGOs have a special role to play in the promotion and protection of human rights of women.

Several participating States and NGOs expressed serious concerns in three main areas: trafficking of women, discrimination based on gender, and domestic violence against women. One participating State equated trafficking of women and girls for sexual exploitation and forced labor with a form of slavery. It has economic roots, particularly in countries undergoing economic transition. It was widely acknowledged that the international dimension of this problem requires a comprehensive program of prevention, assistance to victims, and prosecution of perpetrators as well as broad international cooperation. Secondly, all forms of discrimination against women were denounced. Last but not least, domestic violence against women was mentioned by some participants as one of the most serious and pervasive human rights abuses.

A number of participating States offered detailed descriptions of measures they have taken in these fields, including the introduction and adoption of new legislation and relevant administrative measures. Some participating States referred to the Council of Europe’s ongoing work in this field.

One participating State offered to second an expert to ODIHR to conduct an analysis of legislation concerning trafficking in women and children and domestic violence against women.

Recommendations from the discussions:

- *Several participating States and NGOs encouraged participating States to review their criminal and civil laws as well as their implementation to ensure they offer effective protection to women and criminalize all forms of domestic and sexual assaults.*
- *Several participating States and NGOs encouraged the OSCE to prepare a draft plan of action on mainstreaming the gender dimension into OSCE activities, and to present it at the informal meeting in early 1999 arranged by the in-coming CiO. It was suggested that the OSCE bring a substantial contribution to the 2000 Special Session of the UN General Assembly on the follow-up to the Beijing Conference.*

- *Several participating States and NGOs recommended that OSCE field missions and human rights staff should be trained in identifying, monitoring and documenting violations of women's human rights, including violence and discrimination against women and trafficking of women.*
- *Several participating States and NGOs stressed the importance of allocating the necessary resources to the gender focal points within the OSCE Secretariat and the ODIHR. Many NGOs called on the OSCE to establish a permanent gender specialist.*
- *Some participants called for OSCE participating States to second more qualified women to OSCE missions.*

Tolerance and non discrimination

Participants noted serious concerns about manifestations of aggressive nationalism, ethnic cleansing, racism, chauvinism, and xenophobia in the OSCE area. Recalling several OSCE commitments in this field, they strongly condemned these acts. They also noted that the prevention of such problems is closely linked to the protection of national, ethnic and religious minorities.

Several participating States and NGOs raised concerns about an increase in race-related violence in general, including acts of anti-Semitism, and an increased number of racial, religious or homophobic motivated crimes in some countries. An increase in intolerance towards foreigners in some parts of Europe was reported, including the sometimes poor treatment of refugees and immigrants. Particular concern was expressed that media and new information technologies can be misused for racist purposes.

Some participants stressed that although racist-motivated violence often is committed by individuals or groups of individuals, the State has direct responsibility for fostering tolerance and prosecuting such acts. In this context, the importance of measures to promote tolerance and raise awareness through education was underlined. It also was noted that government and political leaders bear a special responsibility for influencing public opinion; in this respect, efforts by citizens and NGOs are also important.

The work of the European Committee against Racism and Intolerance and Council of Europe efforts to draft an additional protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights widening the scope of the non-discrimination clause in Article 14 of the Convention were welcomed.

Recommendations from the discussions:

- *Several participating States called for full implementation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination.*

- *Several participating States asked the ODIHR to remain engaged in awareness-raising activities and assist participating States in preparing national legislation and policies aimed at eliminating aggressive nationalism, ethnic cleansing, racism, chauvinism and xenophobia. They also encouraged the OSCE/ODIHR to further develop cooperation with relevant international organizations.*
- *One participating State and one NGO asked the OSCE to work to reestablish the OSCE long-term missions to Sandzak and Vojvodina, in addition to the Kosovo Verification Mission.*
- *One NGO urged the OSCE to monitor more closely discrimination against lesbians and gay men.*

Culture and education; Cultural Heritage

Some participating States and an international organization stressed the importance of cultural exchange in promoting tolerance. One State emphasized that the root cause of many conflicts is countries not recognizing the cultural and linguistic right of minorities. Some NGOs said States should help ethnic communities preserve their cultural identity and mother language.

Some participants raised concerns that cultural monuments and sites sometimes are destroyed to erase a cultural heritage, particularly in situations of ethnic conflict. Protection of minorities' cultural identity must be looked at in the broad context of the rights of individuals belonging to minority groups.

Some participating States and one international organization supported the European Convention on Culture. Some States emphasized the importance of human rights education in school curricula. Several participants raised the importance of ensuring minority language education. Some participating States discussed the measures they have taken to provide such education.

Recommendations from the discussions:

- *Some NGOs asked that countries ensure their national legislation implements their international obligations, particularly on the protection of minority culture and education.*
- *Some NGOs recommended that countries provide an adequate educational framework to ensure the protection and continuity of minority cultures and languages.*

Migration, refugees and displaced persons; Migrant workers

Many participants stressed that issues of forced migration are increasingly important in the OSCE area and that strong international cooperation with a regional approach is needed to address them. Specific references were made to difficulties arising from the

large number of refugees and displaced persons resulting from the conflicts in the former Yugoslavia and from the dissolution of the former Soviet Union.

It was noted that the OSCE participating States have committed themselves to facilitating the return, in safety and dignity, of refugees and internally displaced persons according to international standards. Many participants pointed out that such processes are facing serious obstacles and impediments, such as the failure to fully implement property laws, to find appropriate citizenship arrangements, and to stop acts of discrimination.

Several participants emphasized the need for a greater effort on the part of the OSCE, the international community as a whole, and NGOs to work in partnership to address the immediate needs of refugees and displaced persons, as well as to seek more effective ways to prevent crises which force people to leave their countries. They also urged that countries better implement existing agreements and internationally agreed standards for protection of refugees and displaced persons.

One NGO expressed a general concern about Western European policies on refugees, and UNHCR mentioned a particular concern about the treatment of asylum seekers and refugees at international airports.

The ODIHR migration adviser received the full support of one national delegation. Two participating States welcomed the initiative of the ODIHR to conclude memoranda of understanding with countries in two OSCE regions -- which, among other things, will address the question of immigration.

Some participating States pointed out the importance of the CIS Conference and its Programme of Actions adopted in 1996. While one delegation regretted a decline of interest for this Conference and its follow-up, the UNHCR and the Council of Europe reaffirmed their deep interest, and another delegation recommended that the OSCE recommit itself to follow-up.

Participants noted that OSCE regards the protection of migrant workers and the promotion of their rights as a common concern of all participating States. They have accepted commitments to formulate collective responses to both human and socio-economic aspects of the problems of migrant workers.

Noting with concern continuing incidents of racism, xenophobia and discrimination against migrant workers, participants underlined the importance of ensuring that they have equal treatment and freedom from any kind of discrimination, as well as fostering greater integration of migrant workers into the economic, social and cultural life of the host countries. In this regard, different policies of integration, such as facilitating dual citizenship and allowing migrant workers to participate in the political processes of their country of residence were mentioned.

Recommendations from the discussions:

- *Some participating States and the UNHCR encouraged all OSCE participating States to ratify the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, adopt*

refugee legislation in line with international standards, and develop the structural capacity and expertise to establish fair and efficient refugee status determination procedures.

- *Some participants called on the OSCE to enhance its role in the CIS Conference follow-up process, in particular through active cooperation of the ODIHR in the coordination of the Programme of Actions.*
- *Several NGOs called on OSCE participating States to respect and reaffirm their commitments regarding the protection of refugees as well as to refrain from attempts to forcibly return rejected asylum seekers.*
- *Many delegations called upon OSCE participating States to eliminate whatever discrimination exists against the rights of migrant workers and citizens of other countries.*

National minorities

Many participating States recognized that OSCE commitments on national minorities are not limited to protecting the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of persons belonging to national minorities, but also include creating conditions for the promotion of that identity. They underlined that questions related to the protection and the promotion of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities -- essential commitments to peace and stability -- are not exclusively an internal matter of one State. They recognized, in the view of persistent problems in a number of countries, that much needs to be done to both strengthen implementation mechanisms and to enforce them. Several delegations emphasized that the effective protection and promotion of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities is a major stabilizing factor for both intra- and inter-State relations.

Some positive developments regarding the protection of national minorities were welcomed. However, serious concerns also were expressed that compliance in this area is still largely insufficient. Several participants complained that in some OSCE participating, individuals continue to have their basic human rights denied or unlawfully restricted because they belong to a particular ethnic, religious or linguistic group. A general view was expressed that tensions between ethnic groups, often manifested by the denial of rights for persons belonging to national minorities or the denial of the very existence of such groups, continues to create instability and, in some areas, threatens to escalate into conflict. One national delegation condemned repressive measures taken under the excuse of fighting terrorism.

In response to specific cases of non-compliance, some participating States rejected the allegations made, arguing that many of them were based on inaccurate or biased information. They also noted that the existence of different linguistic, religious and cultural differences do not necessarily equate with the existence of a national minority. One participating State recognized that there is room for improvement and expressed its determination to proceed in this direction, with the good faith cooperation of the minority concerned.

Several participating States gave figures on the number of national minorities on their territory and offered descriptions of measures taken to implement their commitments related to the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. In this context, references were made to a number of measures which could be helpful to assure respect for the rights of individuals belonging to national minorities. Areas such as public education, instruction of and in minority languages, facilitation of naturalization, establishment of local or autonomous minority administration or self-governing authorities, an increase in the number of persons belonging to national minorities employed in State administration, and access for national minorities to decision-making levels of government were particularly mentioned.

Strong support was expressed for the work of the High Commissioner on National Minorities as one of the main pillars of the protection of national minorities in the OSCE area. UNHCR and the COE welcomed the close cooperation and concrete actions undertaken with the HCNM. The work of the OSCE missions to address minorities issues also was commended. Many delegations considered the recent conference in Locarno on “Governance and Participation-Integrating Diversity” organized jointly by the ODIHR and the HCNM as one example of finding largely new approaches. They also welcomed the provision of OSCE information to the United Nations in order to strengthen global efforts and cooperation.

The entry into force earlier this year of the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and of the European Charter on Regional and Minority Languages were strongly welcomed. Many participants recalled that both instruments are open for signature to States that are not members of the Council of Europe.

Recommendations from the discussions:

- *Several participating States and NGOs urged that all OSCE countries develop both effective legislation and practical means to protect and promote the rights of persons belonging to ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities.*
- *Many participants called on OSCE participating States to sign, ratify and fully implement the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, the European Charter on Regional and Minority Languages and other relevant international human rights instruments.*
- *Some delegations called on OSCE participating States to use the results of the Locarno conference in order to ameliorate the implementation of commitments related to national minorities.*
- *One participating State recommended that one of the meetings on the Human Dimension in Vienna should be devoted to issues regarding the rights of national minorities.*

Roma and Sinti

Participants noted that manifestations of prejudice, discrimination, racially motivated crimes, and violence against Roma and Sinti persist, and in some cases have increased, within the OSCE area. They expressed deep concern over racist attacks by individuals or groups, school segregation, police brutality and refusal to investigate and redress police brutality, identification of Roma by their race in official documents, as well as other forms of widespread discrimination in education, employment, housing, military service and public places. A particular concern over the situation of Roma in Kosovo was expressed.

Several participating States gave detailed information on the various actions and initiatives they have taken to address problems. These include awareness-raising activities among civil servants and the public at large to change the generally negative stereotypes that exist with regard to the Roma and Sinti, improved educational and employment opportunities, the establishment of inter-ministerial commissions or different forms of national councils on Roma and Sinti affairs, the creation of public foundations with governmental or NGO funds, as well as the launching of different social measures. Some regretted, however, that economic crises have prevented them from fully implementing all these programs and declared their readiness to accept technical and financial support. The intention of one country to coordinate Roma policies with other neighboring countries was noted with particular interest. It was hoped that Roma representatives will be involved in this effort.

Many NGOs regretted nevertheless that OSCE countries have not done enough to protect Roma and Sinti. Some NGOs sought to provide a fuller understanding of the current situation of Roma and Sinti by describing past experiences, including the Romany holocaust and some governments' policy of forced sterilization that continued, in some cases, even after the second World War. Some NGOs emphasized their desire for increased teaching of and in the Romany language. In this regard, some NGOs called for governments to provide opportunities for Roma and Sinti to integrate -- but not at the expense of Romany language and culture.

Although it was acknowledged that governments should take more decisive actions, it was also noted by many participants that Roma and Sinti also have to promote their own situation and interests.

Many NGOs gave information about collaborative efforts by Roma communities to develop policy papers and programs to resolve their problems. While noting in some cases a cooperative response from governments, they regretted that some States have not yet -- at least officially -- admitted the existence of discrimination against Roma and Sinti.

While a few participants regretted a decrease in the activities of the ODIHR's Contact Point on Roma and Sinti, many participants underlined its important role. They welcomed cooperation between the Contact Point and the Council of Europe's Coordinator of activities on Roma and Sinti and paid tribute to the important work on Roma and Sinti issues that is being done by the Council of Europe. Several participants welcomed the intention of the High Commissioner on National Minorities to undertake a major study on the situation of Roma and Sinti in the OSCE area.

Many participants strongly welcomed the roundtable on Roma and Sinti issues, organized by the ODIHR as a side event during the Meeting. The two sessions included presentations by the ODIHR, the COE, and the Project on Ethnic Relations. The background paper prepared by the ODIHR on public policies concerning Roma and Sinti was also welcomed.

Recommendations from the discussions:

- *Several participating States recommended that one of the supplementary meetings on the Human Dimension to be held in Vienna in 1999 be devoted to issues regarding Roma and Sinti.*
- *Some participating States and many NGOs urged the ODIHR's Contact Point for Roma and Sinti to increase its profile and to establish direct contacts with the main Roma and Sinti associations. They also endorsed the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's resolution to nominate a senior appointee in the ODIHR to concentrate solely on this issue.*
- *Two NGOs asked for a European Charter on Roma Rights. Some NGOs called on governments to adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation.*
- *One NGO encouraged participating States not only to share information on measures they have taken to address Roma and Sinti issues, but also to provide an analysis of the effectiveness of these measures.*
- *One NGO requested some participating States to develop television channels in the Romany language.*

Human Dimension mechanisms and other relevant procedures; Further integration of the Human Dimension in the regular activities of the Permanent Council; The functioning of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights; Election observation: reports, procedures, and cooperation framework; Further integration of the Human Dimension in the work of the OSCE long- and short-term missions; Programme of Coordinated Support for recently admitted participating States; Improved dissemination of information regarding the Human Dimension; Human Dimension seminars and regional seminars; Cooperation between the OSCE and other international organizations.

Some participating States stressed that the participating States themselves ultimately are responsible for ensuring implementation of OSCE commitments. OSCE instruments and mechanisms can assist with this, but political will is crucial. One participating States stressed the importance of a balanced approach.

There was broad support for the work of the ODIHR, particularly its elections assistance and monitoring activities. Several participating States and NGOs stressed the importance of including human rights monitoring and the development of democratic institutions in the work of the upcoming Kosovo Verification Mission; ODIHR should play a strong role in this. One State said all participating States need to ensure that ODIHR and the KVM have adequate resources to perform these tasks. One State argued that ODIHR should work within its existing resources and cooperate

with other international organizations as much as possible to cut costs. Several participating States and NGOs supported ODIHR's focal point for gender issues.

Several participating States stressed the need to ensure adequate human rights training for OSCE mission members and also for elections observers. Some States strongly supported the introductory course currently being given in Vienna.

Several participating States and NGOs stressed the importance of further developing OSCE cooperation with other international organizations; some particularly pointed to the Council of Europe since its principles and goals are most similar to those of the OSCE. Increased exchange of information also would help prevent duplication of work. Many participants said that there should be no strict division of tasks or hierarchy established between the OSCE and other international organizations.

A group of States said human dimension issues should be brought up regularly in Vienna as part of the Permanent Council discussion on current issues. Some participating States urged that the human dimension be strongly incorporated into the work on a Document-Charter on European Security currently being developed in Vienna.

Several participating States welcomed the establishment of OSCE Centres in Almaty, Ashgabat, and Bishkek.

One participating State said that excluding an OSCE State for any reason is not acceptable; dialogue must be maintained to assist in countering any problems. In addition, all OSCE work must be guided by the consensus principle. In this regard, that State said the ODIHR should coordinate its programs closely with the Permanent Council.

Recommendations from the discussions:

- *Some participating States and a group of NGOs stressed the importance of ensuring the upcoming OSCE Kosovo Verification Mission gives strong emphasis to human rights monitoring and democracy building programs.*
- *Some participating States and NGOs suggested that the OSCE work with NGOs and other international organizations to develop human rights courses on specific topics to be given to OSCE missions in the field.*
- *Several participating States urged that the OSCE strengthen mechanisms for follow-up to ODIHR recommendations given after elections monitoring and assistance programs and that the countries involved inform the Permanent Council on the actions they take to implement the recommendations.*
- *Participating States suggested the following topics for informal Supplementary Human Dimension meetings to be held in Vienna in 1999: equality of men and women (and particularly legislation protecting women's rights), freedom of religion, issues relating to Roma and Sinti, national minorities, prevention of torture, children's rights, freedom of the media, and conflict prevention.*

- *One State recommended that ODIHR be given sufficient resources to hire experts for its activities if secondments from participating States are not forthcoming.*
- *One participating State recommended that informal Permanent Councils be held more often in Vienna to follow up on human rights issues and seminars. These should include the participation of NGOs and other international organizations. In addition, the Permanent Council should follow up on recommendations made at this meeting.*
- *A group of States asked that the Director of ODIHR and ODIHR staff participate as much as possible in the Permanent Council and other OSCE meetings held in Vienna.*
- *One participating State suggested that the Human Dimension Implementation Review Meeting forward recommendations to the next OSCE ministerial meeting.*
- *One participating State recommended that the OSCE pay more attention to issues dealing with youth and that the OSCE sponsor an international meeting on separatism.*

Role of NGOs

Most of the participants noted that NGOs make a significant contribution to the work of the OSCE in strengthening human rights and democracy and supported their growing involvement in the OSCE activities. Numerous references were made to the essential role of NGOs in building an active and effective civil society. Participants encouraged all States to further strengthen dialogue between their governments and NGOs, including through the establishment of a contact point for NGOs within their foreign ministries if this does not yet exist.

Some participants pointed to the serious difficulties that many NGOs face in some participating States, including restrictions on their activities, governmental harassment, arrest of human rights activists, cumbersome registration procedures, and prohibitive taxation legislation. They hoped that the adoption of the 10 December 1998 UN Declaration on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders would be an important step towards protecting those people who are working to build democratic societies. They deeply deplored the physical attack during this Meeting on an NGO representative as he was leaving his hotel to attend a session.

While recognizing the important role of NGOs in the OSCE process, one national delegation recalled that it expected NGOs to use objectivity, impartiality and transparency in their work and urged them to avoid biased attitudes towards States. Another national delegation regretted that some NGOs made pernicious interventions, hindering constructive dialogue.

Many participants underlined the importance of further strengthening the relationship between NGOs, the OSCE and in particular, the ODIHR. In this context, they welcomed the restructuring of the format of the Implementation Meetings, which has

led to more dynamic sessions and ensured that NGOs have had greater input in the discussions. They pointed out that NGO participation in the informal Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings also should be facilitated by participating States. The NGO Database and Information Clearing House established by the ODIHR was highlighted as playing an important role in improving communication between NGOs and the OSCE, as well as between NGOs themselves. Many participants, however, said there was room for improvement; they suggested such things as using the Internet to better disseminate information and receive documents such as the Background Papers prior to the Implementation Meetings.

Recommendations from the discussions:

- *Many participants suggested identifying new measures aimed at further strengthening the relationship between the OSCE and NGOs, including work in the field of conflict prevention and crisis management, involvement with OSCE missions, and greater access to OSCE meetings.*
- *One participating State and many NGOs suggested opening an OSCE fund to facilitate the participation of NGOs in the OSCE work in general and in the informal Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings in particular.*
- *One participating State suggested that, as in the UN, the OSCE should institute a careful selection process of NGOs prior to the next Implementation Meeting.*

VII. ROUNDTABLES REPORTS

ROUNDTABLE ON FREEDOM OF RELIGION

Wednesday, 28 October 1998

16:00 – 18:00

AGENDA

Moderator: Ms. Karen S. Lord Esq., Commission on Security and Co-operation in Europe

16:00-16:10 Welcome and Introduction

By ODIHR First Deputy Director

16:10-16:55 Recent developments in the OSCE region with regard to freedom of believers and non-believers.

- *Activities and results of the ODIHR expert panel so far.*

By Dr. T. Jeremy GUNN

- *The legal basis for the protection of religious freedom and problems arising -further standards needed?*

By Dr. T. Jeremy GUNN

- *The implementation of religious freedom in the OSCE - challenges and Opportunities: some experiences.*

By Monsignor Ivan JURKOVIĚ

16:55-17:40 How to address the issue within the OSCE structures in 1999-2000 and how to maintain the relevant network established around the Panel of Experts.

By Mr. Rudiger NOLL, Conference of European Churches

- *Matters arising in any country with regard to the implementation of religious freedom and the equality of all religious before the law.*

- *The OSCE as a unique framework to respond to present challenges.*

- *The ODIHR s role in promoting religious freedom - challenges and limits.*

17:40-18:00 Project proposals and recommendations

Closure

REPORT

Moderator: Ms. Karen LORD, Counsel for Freedom of Religion for the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, who is also a member of the ODIHR Expert Panel.

Participants

- 52 participants attended the Roundtable: 7 experts from the ODIHR Panel, which were part of their respective delegations. In addition, delegations from US, Russian Federation, France, UK, Norway, Netherlands, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Switzerland, Holy See, Romania, Slovak Republic, Bulgaria, Uzbekistan, as well as representatives from ecumenical federations, churches, NGOs and ODIHR were present throughout the sessions.

Discussion and Conclusions from the Round Table

- The OSCE/ODIHR was represented by Deputy Director Peter EICHER, who made a short welcome and introductory statement.
- Dr. T. Jeremy GUNN summarized the international law in the area of religious liberty and reviewed the activities and the conclusions of the interim report of the Expert Panel. Monsignor Ivan JURKOVIC, who is not a member of the Expert Panel but whose delegation strongly supported its work at the initial stages, discussed the vision for the Expert Panel, the importance of its work especially for Central and Eastern Europe, and the clear commitments and framework that the OSCE commitments provide. He also stressed the importance of the Panel focusing on juridical issues and not becoming a panel for solving inter-confessional disputes. Three members of the Expert Panel, Dr. Cole DURHAM, Dr. Axel PETRI, and Dr. Michael BORDEAUX, spoke briefly about the work of the Panel.
- Dr. Rudiger NOLL, of the Council for European Churches and panel member presented a proposal as a framework for the round table discussion on the possible future work of the panel, and highlighted the role of the Experts Panel to assist the participating States in carrying out conflict prevention and other mandates of the OSCE. The proposal was distributed to all Implementation Meeting participants.
- There was general agreement that the protection of religious liberty is a crucial part of OSCE commitments and that the Panel of Experts should continue its work on these issues. A number of country delegations expressed their support of the continuing work of the Expert Panel, including the United Kingdom, Germany, Denmark, Russia, and Sweden. The Government of Norway indicated that it was willing to commit financially to the on-going work of the Panel.
- A few country delegations stressed the need for practical and on-going dialogue at the Permanent Council as follow-up from the discussions at the Implementation Review Meeting. It was further noted that no new legal standards or commitments are needed but rather new understanding of the commitments that already exist. Finally, any ODIHR or Expert Panel project must be practical and have a clear mandate and schedule.
- A number of concrete suggestions were outlined by country delegations and NGOs, with several relating directly to the Expert Panel. Mechanisms for smaller NGOs and religious groups to have access to the Panel, such as special hearings or other methods of information gathering, would enhance the Panel's work. Several speakers stated that it was not necessary to include every group on the Panel but that more open access to the experts would insure that all views were taken into account.

- Projects were also suggested, both for the ODIHR and for the Expert Panel, including a review of the laws on acquiring legal status for religious groups in the participating States, and a review and clarification of the limitations clauses found in the Helsinki commitments in order to better understand the contexts in which they can and are used. A number of speakers stressed the role of the OSCE and the ODIHR in conflict prevention and encouraged the ODIHR and the Expert Panel to explore a role as mediator in disputes and as facilitator of dialogue between religious groups and the governments of the participating States. Overall, the discussion focused on the role the ODIHR and the Expert Panel can play in fostering dialogue among the participating States, among NGOs and the governments of the participating States, and in continuing the discussions begun at the Implementation Review Meetings.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Panel

Michael BOURDEAUX	Keston Institute, Oxford
Matthias WECKERLING	German Delegation
W. Cole DURHAM	International Academy for Freedom of Religion and Belief
Rudiger NOLL	Conference of European Churches
Jeremy GUNN	US Institute of Peace
Karen S. LORD	CSCE
Carl Axel PETRI	Sweden

Delegations

A.M.Bolin PENNEGAARD	Swedish Delegation
Christina GAGINSKY	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Romania
Christina BURGI	Swiss Delegation
Catherine MACKENZIE	UK Delegation
Lenke BLEHOVA	Slovak Delegation
Harm J. HAZEWINKEL	Netherlands Delegation
Harri KAMARAINEN	Finnish OSCE Delegation
Harris NIELSEN	Danish Delegation
Jackleen TOLEVA	Bulgarian Delegation
Bjorn M. BERGE	Norwegian Delegation
Agnes VON DER MUHLL	French OSCE Delegation
Ivan JURKOVIC	Holy See
Werner FREISTETTER	Holy See
Mario ZENARI	Holy See
Vera G. GRACHEVA	Russian Federation, Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Sayora RASHIDOVA	Uzbek Delegation
Dorothy Douglas TAFT	US Delegation / CSCE
Laila AL-MARAYATI	US Delegation (Public member)

OSCE Missions

Bess BROWN

OSCE Liaison Office in Central Asia

NGOs / Churches

Malgorzata KARLSSON

Science of Identity Institute

Iwona DUDA

Science of Identity Institute

Louis VE WIR

European Association of Jehova's Witnesses

Marcel GILLET

European Association of Jehova's Witnesses

Urban GIBSON

Conference of European Churches (Sweden)

Elzbieta SERWIN

Science of Identity Institute

Hans Morten HAUGEN

Conference of European Churches

(Norway)

Britt Strandlie THORESEN

Oslo Coalition on Freedom of Religion or Belief

Kinga BLASZCZYK

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Paul F. WILSON

Churches Human Rights Programme

Lee BOOTHBY

International Commission for Freedom of
Conscience

James ANDRIK

Jehova's Witnesses Headquarters

Verena GRAF

International League for the Rights and

Ethon NARLIS

Liberation of Peoples (LIDLIP)

John M. BURNS

The Constantinopolitan Society

Michael E. LEWIS

Jehova's Witnesses, Canada

Martin WEIGHTMAN

Jehova's Witnesses Headquarters

Bill WALSH

Church of Scientology, Human Rights Office

Katherine WEGNER

Church of Scientology, Human Rights Office

Lubomir MULLER

Conference of European Churches (Switzerland)

Willy FAUTRE

Jehova's Witnesses, Russia

Nate GELLER

Human Rights Without Frontiers

Kristoffer GJOTTERUD

National Conference on Soviet Jewry, USA

Aisling REIDY

Ex-Soviet Jewry Committee, Norway

Human Rights Centre, University of Essex

ODIHR Staff

Peter EICHER

First Deputy Director

Judith SCHMIDT

Human Dimension Expert

Roundtable Organisers

Erol AKDAG

Human Dimension Adviser

Nina WESSEL

Human Dimension Assistant

ROUNDTABLE ON GENDER ISSUES

Thursday 29 October 1998
11:00 – 13:00

AGENDA

- 11:00 11:10* **Welcome and Introduction**
- 11:10 11:45* **Women in conflict prevention**
Speaker: Barbara LOCHBIHLER, Director, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
- Open discussion
- 11:45 12:45* **Strategies for change: co-operation with international agencies and NGOs**
Zina MOUNLA, UNIFEM New York
Shahrbanou TADJBAKSH, United Nations Development Programme, Project Manager for Central Asia and the Caucasus, Regional Gender in Development Programme
Sophie PIQUET, Council of Europe
Alison JOLLY, Adviser on Gender Mainstreaming and the Human Rights of Women, ODIHR
- Contributions from NGOs and open discussion
- 12:45-13:00* **Summary and closing remarks**

REPORT

Moderator: Monika WOHLFELD, Gender Focal Point, OSCE Secretariat, Vienna

Participants

- The session was attended by 21 NGOs, 19 OSCE delegates and 5 representatives of international organisations (45 in total).

Discussion

The emphasis throughout was on the need for concrete actions to promote and achieve genuine equality and for human and financial resources to back the OSCE's and ODIHR's policies. UNDP reported that gender was one of the five pillars of the organisation, with 20% of resources devoted to gender projects.

Women in conflict prevention

- It was pointed out that 6 existing OSCE Missions already report on issues of specific concern to women.
- A range of speakers called for the OSCE to draw upon the experience and expertise of women in conflict prevention, not only as victims of conflict, but also as participants in negotiations and as implementing partners. It was recommended that the OSCE continue its existing civil diplomacy projects. NGOs offered to provide information on possible experts. The NGO Women of the Don reported on its own civil anti-war initiatives.
- NGOs were concerned on what methods were best for processing their findings and experience to the OSCE. It was suggested that information be passed in the first instance to Alison Jolly and Monika Wohlfeld.

Strategies for change

- UNIFEM, UNDP and the Council of Europe expressed their support for the OSCE and ODIHR and their willingness to co-operate in projects. Initiatives with all three IOs are now being finalised (UNIFEM – women on conflict prevention in the southern Caucasus; UNDP – follow up to the Tashkent consultation; Council of Europe – violence against women and trafficking in women). The watchword is complementarity.
- The question of quotas within the OSCE was raised, in the context of the need for qualified women to be seconded to Missions and the Secretariat. One OSCE delegation suggested the most effective action would be for NGOs to lobby governments at home; NGOs called for the Secretariat to issue a statement or guidelines to governments encouraging them to create pools of qualified women to draw upon for OSCE work. Sweden backed this suggestion. Several NGOs reported on the effectiveness of quota systems in their recruitment policies (e.g. Norwegian Development Aid; Conference of European Churches).
- Key issues of concern were violence against women; trafficking; representation of women; the need for reference to all relevant standards and commitments in the field of equality (e.g. Beijing); skills and capacity building so that projects become self-sustaining; the reinvention or rediscovery of traditions and cultures that disadvantage, discriminate against and downgrade women; the need for effective equal opportunity and anti-discrimination laws; and the need for monitoring and data to inform the design and targeting of projects.

ROUNDTABLE ON REDRESSING TORTURE

Friday 30 October 1998
11:00 - 13:00

AGENDA

- 11:00 - 11:15* **Welcome and Introduction**
 Roundtable Moderator: Ms. Danielle COQUOZ, Head of the Central Tracing Agency and Protection Division, International Committee of the Red Cross, Member of OSCE ODIHR Advisory Panel for the Prevention of Torture
- 11:15 - 11:30* **Status Report by OSCE Advisory Panel for the Prevention of Torture**
 Speaker: Mr. Claude NICOLAY, Deputy Prosecutor General of Luxembourg and formerly Chairman of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture, Member of OSCE ODIHR Advisory Panel for the Prevention of Torture
- 11:30 - 12:00* **Redressing Torture: Panel Presentations**
 Mrs. Inge GENEFKKE, Secretary General, International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims
 Mrs. Claudine HAENNI, Secretary General, Association for the Prevention of Torture
 Mr. Douglas A. JOHNSON, Executive Director, Center for Victims of Torture, Member of OSCE ODIHR Advisory Panel for the Prevention of Torture
- 12:00 - 12:45* **Open Discussion - Topics**
- OSCE Commitments to redress torture (right to reparation, in particular compensation and rehabilitation)
 - Ways in which the OSCE can support the establishment and activities of torture rehabilitation centres in participating States
 - Recommendations for the OSCE
- 12:45 - 13:00* **Summary of Roundtable and Closing Remarks**
 Roundtable Moderator: Ms. Danielle COQUOZ

REPORT

Moderator: Ms Danielle COQUOZ, ICRC, OSCE/ODIHR Advisory Panel
 Speakers: Mr Claude NICOLAY, Deputy Prosecutor General of Luxembourg, OSCE/ODIHR Advisory Panel, Ms Inge GENEFKKE, IRCT, Ms Claudine HAENNI, APT and Mr Douglas A. JOHNSON, CVT, OSCE/ODIHR Advisory Panel

Participants

The session was attended by at least 31 participants including 7 participating States delegates (from Switzerland, Denmark, France, Slovak Republic, United Kingdom, United States of America), 10 NGOs, 3 researchers and the 5 members of the OSCE/ODIHR Advisory Panel for the Prevention of Torture (see agenda and list of participants in annex).

Status report by the OSCE/ODIHR Advisory Panel for the Prevention of Torture

Mr Claude NICOLAY presented a brief report of the panel's work (see speech in annex).

Redressing torture

- The first speaker stressed that torture and its effects were problems of a great magnitude; they are obstacles to developing democracy (traumatised people are not able to participate); torture affects not only the direct victim but also his or her family for several generations and the entire society. It is a public health problem, especially for the newly established or restored democracies.
- Several speakers pointed out that "Redress" had to be given a broad meaning: it covers the right to physical and psychological medical rehabilitation, the right to compensation (money, official recognition), the right to know the truth, satisfaction and the guarantee that it won't happen again. Fighting against impunity - including by setting up the appropriate legal framework - is crucial in this respect. It was also pointed out that torture and oppression lead to an apathetic society (the society is trained not to see what happens). Therefore "Redress" must also encompass the recovering of the collective identity and memory. Such work could help prevent future conflicts.
- The UN Special Rapporteur on Torture drew attention to the fact that bad prison conditions are often related to overcrowding prisons with people awaiting trial. In such cases, the problem could be mitigated by releasing non-violent first-time offenders.
- Two NGOs described the problems allegedly existing in two countries (no money given by government for rehabilitation Centers, victims tortured by other detainees, prevalence of psychological torture, zones of conflicts where NGOs are not allowed to visit places of detention).

Strategies for change

- All participants provided advice on how the OSCE could best develop activities to promote redress. Main proposals related to:
 1. Rehabilitation centres: OSCE should promote and facilitate the creation of such centres, and protect them, notably through fostering the necessary practical and legal environment.
 2. Expertise in the field of law and the role of the judiciary: OSCE should gather legislation and case law on the topic of prosecution of torturers and rehabilitation and disseminate best practices or models of legislation. It should also disseminate the UN guidelines on reparation and rehabilitation.
 3. OSCE should encourage ombudsmen to have a more proactive role (visit prisons on regular basis).
 4. OSCE should be involved in the 26 June campaign for torture victims (26 June is the International Day for Torture Victims).

5. OSCE should avoid ad hoc activism but should build a strategy to fight against torture involving all the "players" (Governments, NGOs, IOs).
- A range of participants also reiterated or concretised the recommendations contained in the OSCE background paper 6 prepared for the Implementation Meeting: they called for support to the UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture and the draft optional protocol to the Convention Against Torture; asked OSCE to focus on prison conditions; called for informing OSCE senior officials on the problem of torture in countries they visit. One participant asked for the denunciation of systematic torture by the OSCE. Another suggested encouraging the training of Roma doctors. An additional suggestion was to establish a series of prizes to encourage the dissemination of good practice. The Swedish delegation drew attention to the strategy to fight torture set out in the 1996 Stockholm meeting. One delegate called for anti-torture experts to be integrated into the OSCE ground verification mission to Kosovo.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

OSCE/ODIHR Advisory Panel for the Prevention of Torture

COQUOZ Danielle	ICRC
JOHNSON Douglas	Center for Victims of Torture, Minneapolis
GORVIN Ian	Amnesty International
NICOLAY Claude	Deputy Prosecutor General of Luxembourg
RODLEY Nigel S.	UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Professor of Law, University of Essex

OSCE Delegations

CHRISTIANSEN Mi	Danish Delegation
HOTTIAUX Laurent	French Delegation
BLEHOVÁ Lenka	Slovak Delegation
DANAĪLOV Silvia	Swiss Delegation
CROMBIE Susan	UK Delegation
KELLER Allen	US Delegation
MCNAMARD Ronald	US Delegation

Non-Governmental Organisations

AADAMSOO Arno	Estonian MRT, ICRT
DORU Camelia	ICAR Foundation
GENEFKE Inge	International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims, ICRT
GJÖTTERUD Kristoffer	Ex-Soviet Jewry Committee
HAENNI Claudine	Association for the Prevention of Torture
MURASHOV Iuri	Ukrainian Committee "Helsinki-90"
UZITU Stefan	Helsinki Committee for HR in Moldova
VOGEL Audrey	Association for the Prevention of Torture

Researchers

BOBROVA Maria
EVANS Malcolm

Central European University
University of Bristol

Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

EICHER Peter
MITCHELL Sandra
AEBY Andrea
MEYER Michael

ANNEX

BRIEF REPORT OF THE ADVISORY PANEL FOR THE PREVENTION OF TORTURE

Mr. Claude NICOLAY, Advisory Panel Member

The Advisory Panel for the Prevention of Torture was established pursuant to recommendations from the 1997 Human Dimension Implementation Review Meeting to provide advice on how the ODIHR can best develop programs and activities to combat torture in OSCE participating States, without duplicating ongoing efforts by other organizations. The work of the Advisory Panel and ODIHR in the field of torture prevention has been funded with a voluntary contribution by the United Kingdom.

The Advisory Panel was formed earlier this year and includes:

- Ms. Danielle COQUOZ, Head of the Central Tracing Agency and Protection Division at the International Committee of the Red Cross;
- Mr. Ian GORVIN, Director of the Regional Program of Europe at Amnesty International;
- Mr. Douglas JOHNSON, Executive Director for the Center for Victims of Torture in the United States of America;
- Prof. Nigel S. RODLEY, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture, and a Professor of Law at the University of Essex; and myself.
- I am the Deputy Prosecutor General of Luxembourg and formerly Chairman of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture.

The Advisory Panel met for the first time in June of this year to provide guidance to the ODIHR in the development of new projects for 1999 that contain an anti-torture component. The Advisory Panel also advised the ODIHR on ways to integrate anti-torture activities into existing projects. Continuing advice will be given to the ODIHR in the development of a strategic plan to combat torture.

Yesterday, 29 October 1998, the Advisory Panel met for the second time to review the efforts of the ODIHR to combat torture. Many of the suggestions and advice given by

the Advisory Panel during our first meeting have been implemented by ODIHR. These include the following:

1. ODIHR has developed projects for 1999 that will review the legal framework of some participating States to ensure that domestic legislation is consistent with OSCE commitments and international obligations to prevent, combat and redress torture.
2. ODIHR is working with two distinguished experts in the field of torture prevention, Mr. Malcolm EVANS and Mr. Rod MORGAN, to develop a field handbook for OSCE Mission members so that they can become better trained in the methods used to combat torture and so that they will be able to better monitor and report on the situation in the field. Such training will also facilitate the co-ordination of anti-torture activities between other international organizations and non-governmental organizations. With better trained OSCE mission members, the ODIHR will be able to provide more concrete assistance in the development of country specific projects aimed at combating torture.
3. The ODIHR is also supporting the efforts of two distinguished members of the Advisory Panel in the development of a new methodology to develop a strategy to end the practice of torture. Key to this new innovative approach is the use of a "relationship mapping" technique to facilitate the development and co-ordination of a comprehensive group of tactics. The end result of this multi-phase project will be a new diagnostic tool that can be applied to different national situations, in order to determine what tactics and measures can be brought to bear to intervene against torture.
4. ODIHR is also considering ways in which the OSCE institutions can contribute to the international campaign to end torture. In this regard the ODIHR will be working with OSCE missions, NGOs and other institutions to join in the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture on June 26, 1999. Members of the Advisory Panel are also considering how they may contribute to this campaign.
5. Much work needs to be done by all international organizations and non-governmental organizations to combat torture. But the steps taken so far by the ODIHR represent the OSCE's commitment to end torture and other cruel and inhumane practices that are still occurring in OSCE participating States.

The Advisory Panel will meet with ODIHR again in 6 months to review the progress of the efforts being made by ODIHR to combat torture.

ROUNDTABLE ON ROMA AND SINTI NATIONAL POLICIES

2 – 3 November 1998

Organized by OSCE/ODIHR, Council of Europe
and Project on Ethnic Relations

AGENDA

Monday, 2 November

Session 1

Chairperson: Mr. John MURRAY, Council of Europe

10:00-10:10 **Opening statement** of Ambassador Gérard STOUDMANN, Director of OSCE ODIHR

10:10-11:30 **Development of national policies in favour of minority rights of Roma and Sinti, in particular preventing violence and discrimination.**

Moderator: Mr. Ian HANCOCK, Project on Ethnic Relations

Session 2

Chairperson: Mr. Alessandro MISSIR, European Commission

11:30-13:00 **European Union Agenda 2000 and its impact on Roma and Sinti in accessing countries.**

Moderator: Mr. Nicolae GHEORGHE, Romani CRISS/ Project on Ethnic Relations

Tuesday, 3 November

Session 3

Chairperson: Mr. Jacek PALISZEWSKI, OSCE ODIHR

15:00-17:00 **Co-operation of international institutions: OSCE, Council of Europe and European Commission.**

Moderator: Mr. Andrzej MIRGA, Project on Ethnic Relations

Chairperson: Ms. Livia PLAKS, Project on Ethnic Relations

17:00-18:00 **Recommendations**

Rapporteur: Ms. Jennifer TANAKA

REPORT

Participation

This year's roundtable benefited from greater participation of Roma from around the OSCE region. Altogether the Roundtable was attended by over 50 participants, including State Delegations of the USA, Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, France, Romania, Slovakia, Switzerland and the Czech Republic, representatives of the OSCE ODIHR, Council of Europe, European Commission and around 35 Roma and other NGOs, including the Project on Ethnic Relations which was one of the co-organisers of the roundtable.

Opening comments

In opening the roundtable, Ambassador Gérard STOUDMANN expressed ODIHR's continued concern for discrimination. In view of this situation, the OSCE is determined to keep Roma and Sinti issues on the agenda, while continuing its awareness-raising activities, especially in regards to social discrimination and racial violence. Ambassador STOUDMANN underlined that national policies call for serious attention, and protective legislation should be enacted to impede manifestations of violence.

Topic 1: Development of national policies in favour of minority rights of Roma and Sinti, in particular the prevention of violence and discrimination

- The Council of Europe representative described the encouraging developments in the adoption of policies in some of the countries with the largest Roma population. The Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary prepared comprehensive strategies on Roma issues, whereas similar processes in Romania and Bulgaria are presently under discussion.
- Several speakers representing State Delegations stated that it would be useful if there were more unity among the Roma organisations and selected persons could be delegated to represent Roma interests at national level. These statements led to a series of comments from the Roma participants who have faced difficulties while dealing with the governments in their own countries. Roma NGOs pointed out that the lack of unity within Roma communities is being used by some government institutions to justify their unwillingness or passiveness in co-operating with Roma.
- The Roma representatives held that the national authorities should not expect unity, which does not exist in other ethnic or national groups, and instead should learn to deal with diversity and the broad spectrum of Roma organisations. At the European level it was suggested that Roma, governments and international organisations consider starting a process for creating an international representative body such as Roma European parliament to defend and promote Roma rights.

- A number of specific cases in particular countries were raised by Roma participants, such as discriminatory administration of justice, police raids, beatings of Roma men, women and children, and the forced expulsions of Roma.

Topic 2: European Commission Agenda 2000 and its impact on Roma and Sinti in accessing countries

- The second session of the roundtable discussed the criteria for accession to EU, one of them being treatment of minorities. It was stated that in general, integration of minorities is satisfactory in the countries seeking EU membership, except for the situation of Roma.
- The European Commission developed a financial scheme, which includes 2 million ECU to assist the Romanian government in developing a policy focusing on strategies for integration of Roma. Roma participation was part of the terms of reference and implementation. Similar initiatives will be taken for all Central-East European countries.
- Roma participants expressed their desire for Roma becoming partners instead of subjects of scientific studies. In terms of monitoring the situation in EU candidate countries, participants stressed that there is clearly a need to associate Roma in the monitoring process for fulfilling political criteria of accession, and that the main question for both Roma and the governments is not *if* Roma should participate, but *how* Roma should participate.

Topic 3: Co-operation of international institutions: OSCE, Council of Europe and European Commission

- Speakers in this session pointed out that since the OSCE Human Dimension Meeting on Roma in 1994, the ODIHR Contact Point on Roma and Sinti Issues and the Council of Europe have developed a good working relationship. However, there is a need to expand this bipartite co-operation by working with other international institutions, especially the European Commission.
- The recommendation of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly on establishing a senior position at ODIHR to deal specifically with Roma and Sinti issues was discussed and largely supported. It was pointed out that the mandate of this advisor could include some functions performed by ombudsman and human rights protection institutions.
- Participants also identified some particular areas in which the ODIHR and other international organisations may assist. One of these concerns working with local authorities in the area of education on anti-discrimination and anti-racism, since much resistance is often met at lower levels of governance. A number of participants raised again the need for beginning work on a European Charter on Roma Rights.

The following recommendations were put forth in the course of the discussions:

- To advise ODIHR to establish a senior position to deal on a regular basis with Roma issues;
- To strengthen the profile of the Contact Point to enable it to provide advice and assistance to governments, especially in the areas of racial violence and discrimination;
- To advise the OSCE on upgrading the profile of Roma within a broader context of European security. The OSCE to investigate the mode by which the Roma's own concept of personal and group security could be incorporated into OSCE security model;
- ODIHR Contact Point on Roma and Sinti Issues was requested to provide an inventory of organisations working on Roma related issues;
- ODIHR was requested to organise training for young Roma persons.

VIII. PLENARY MEETINGS AND SESSIONS JOURNALS

HDIM98/JOURNAL No. 1
26 October 1998

ODIHR Chairmanship

1st DAY OF THE IMPLEMENTATION MEETING ON
HUMAN DIMENSION ISSUES

FIRST PLENARY MEETING (open)

1. Date: Monday, 26 October 1998

Opened: 10.10 a.m.
Closed: 1.40 p.m.

2. Chairman: Mr. G. Stoudmann

3. Subjects discussed - Statements - Decisions:

The Chairman formally opened the Implementation Meeting on Human Dimension Issues.

H.E. Professor Bronisław Geremek, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Poland and OSCE Chairman-in-Office, addressed the meeting.

PRESENTATIONS BY THE HEADS OF OSCE INSTITUTIONS

High Commissioner on National Minorities

OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

Director of the ODIHR

OPENING STATEMENTS

United States of America, Austria-European Union, Poland, Turkey, Slovak Republic, Russian Federation, Switzerland, Lithuania, Romania, Holy See, International Committee of the Red Cross, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Canada, Uzbekistan, Council of Europe, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Ukraine

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 5 November 1998, at 3 p.m., in the Conference Hall
Chair: ODIHR

SESSION 1 (open)

1. Date: Monday, 26 October 1998

Opened: 3.10 p.m.
Suspended: 6.05 p.m.
Resumed: 10.15 a.m. (Tuesday, 27 October 1998)
Closed: 10.35 a.m.

2. Chairman: Mr. L. Mevik (Moderator)

3. Subjects discussed - Statements - Decisions:

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN DIMENSION
COMMITMENTS AND THE PROCEDURES FOR MONITORING
COMPLIANCE WITH THEM

Rule of Law, including:

- *Legislative transparency;*
- *Independence of the judiciary;*
- *Right to a fair trial.*

United States of America, Federation of the Western Thrace Turks in Europe (ABTF), Kurdish Human Rights Project, Finland to a Constitutional State-Movement, Turkey, Arena, Romania, Greece (on behalf of the European Union), Russian Federation, Norwegian Helsinki Committee, International League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples, Switzerland, Uzbekistan, Norway, OSCE Mission to Bosnia

and Herzegovina, Council of Europe, International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights, Poland, Canada

Right of reply: Greece, United States of America, Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Exchange of information on the question of the abolition of capital punishment:

Amnesty International, Portugal (on behalf of the European Union), Conference of European Churches, Norway, Council of Europe, Italy, Switzerland, Uzbekistan, Belarus, Poland, Canada, Russian Federation

Right of reply: United States of America, Ukraine

4. Next meeting:

Tuesday, 27 October 1998, at 10 a.m., in the Conference Hall

HDIM98/JOURNAL No. 2
27 October 1998

2nd DAY OF THE IMPLEMENTATION MEETING
ON HUMAN DIMENSION ISSUES

SESSION 2 (open)

1. Date: Tuesday, 27 October 1998

Opened: 10.35 a.m.
Suspended: 1.05 p.m.
Resumed: 3.10 p.m.
Closed: 3.50 p.m.

2. Chairman: Mr. L. Mevik (Moderator)

3. Subjects discussed - Statements - Decisions:

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN DIMENSION
COMMITMENTS AND THE PROCEDURES FOR MONITORING
COMPLIANCE WITH THEM

Democratic institutions, including:

- *Free and fair elections:*

- *Democracy at the national, regional and local levels:*

United States of America, Germany (on behalf of the European Union), Federation of the Western Thracian Turks in Europe (ABTF), Moscow Research Centre for Human Rights, All Belarusian Club of Electors, Uzbekistan, Switzerland, Russian Federation, Kyrgyzstan, Canada, Head of Election Section - ODIHR, Kyrgyz Committee on Human Rights, Vice President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Kazakstan International Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law, Sweden (on behalf of the European Union), Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe

Right of reply: Greece, Kazakstan

Organizational matters: Chairman

Citizenship and political rights:

United States of America, Uzbekistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Council of Europe, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Spain (on behalf of the European Union), Latvia, Charter '97 Civic Initiative

Right of reply: Czech Republic, Slovenia, Belarus

Civic education:

Council of Europe, Belarus, Spain (on behalf of the European Union)

4. Next meeting:

Tuesday, 27 October 1998, at 3 p.m., in the Conference Hall

SESSION 3 (open)

1. Date: Tuesday, 27 October 1998

Opened: 3.50 p.m.

Suspended: 6.15 p.m.

Resumed: 10.10 a.m. (Wednesday, 28 October 1998)

Closed: 11.15 a.m.

2. Chairman: Mr. L. Mevik. (Moderator)

3. Subjects discussed - Statements - Decisions:

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN DIMENSION
COMMITMENTS AND THE PROCEDURES FOR MONITORING
COMPLIANCE WITH THEM

Human rights and fundamental freedoms, including:

- *Freedom of thought, conscience, and religion or belief:*

The Constantinopolitan Society, Science of Identity Institute "Chaitanya Mission", Federation of the Western Thrace Turks in Europe (ABTF), United States of America, Jehovah's Witnesses, International League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples, Conference of European Churches, Netherlands (on behalf of the European Union), Holy See, Charter '97 Civic Initiative, Russian Federation, Kyrgyzstan, Canada, Oslo Coalition on Freedom of Religion or Belief, Human Rights Without Frontiers, Turkey, Cyprus, Church of Scientology, Norwegian Helsinki Committee, Amnesty International, Keston Institute, Norway

Right of reply: Germany, Austria, France, Turkey, Greece, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Poland, Bulgaria, Norway

The delegation of the United States of America spoke on the subject of international humanitarian law (see Journal No. 4).

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 28 October 1998, at 10 a.m., in the Conference Hall

HDIM98/JOURNAL No. 3
28 October 1998

3rd DAY OF THE IMPLEMENTATION MEETING
ON HUMAN DIMENSION ISSUES

SESSION 4 (open)

1. Date: Wednesday, 28 October 1998

Opened: 11.15 a.m.

Suspended: 1.00 p.m.

Resumed: 3.05 p.m.

Closed: 3.40 p.m.

2. Chairman: Mr. L. Mevik (Moderator)

3. Subjects discussed - Statements - Decisions:

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN DIMENSION
COMMITMENTS AND THE PROCEDURES FOR MONITORING
COMPLIANCE WITH THEM

Human rights and fundamental freedoms, including:

- *Freedom of expression, free media and information:*

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Canada, Moldova, United States of America, Kurdish Human Rights Project, Federation of the Western Thracian Turks in Europe (ABTF), Kyrgyz Committee for Human Rights, Norway, Finland to a Constitutional State-Movement, Norwegian Forum for Freedom of Expression, Switzerland, Grodna Regional Center for Human Rights, Germany (on behalf of the European Union), Kyrgyzstan, Council of Europe, International Commission on Freedom of Conscience, Russian Federation, Turkey, Belarus

Right of reply: Greece, Turkey, Russian Federation

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 28 October 1998, at 3 p.m., in the Conference Hall

SESSION 5 (open)

1. Date: Wednesday, 28 October 1998

Opened: 3.45 p.m.

Closed: 5.55 p.m.

2. Chairman: Mr. L. Mevik (Moderator)

3. Subjects discussed - Statements - Decisions:

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN DIMENSION
COMMITMENTS AND THE PROCEDURES FOR MONITORING
COMPLIANCE WITH THEM

Human rights and fundamental freedoms, including:

- *Freedom of association and the right of peaceful assembly:*

- *Freedom of movement:*

International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, United States of America, The Constantinopolitan Society, The Legal Information Centre for Human Rights, Conference of European Churches, Austria-European Union, Grodna Regional Center for Human Rights, International Academy for Freedom of Religion and Belief, Russian Federation, Romania, Macedonian Human Rights Movement of Canada, Science of Identity Institute "Chaitanya

Mission", Cyprus, Human Rights Watch, International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Right of reply: Turkey, Belarus, Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 29 October 1998, at 10 a.m., in the Conference Hall

HDIM98/JOURNAL No. 4
29 October 1998

4th DAY OF THE IMPLEMENTATION MEETING
ON HUMAN DIMENSION ISSUES

SESSION 6 (open)

1. Date: Thursday, 29 October 1998

Opened: 10.10 a.m.

Suspended: 1.10 p.m.

Resumed: 6.05 p.m.

Closed: 7.30 p.m.

2. Chairman: Mr. L. Mevik (Moderator)

3. Subjects discussed - Statements - Decisions:

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN DIMENSION
COMMITMENTS AND THE PROCEDURES FOR MONITORING
COMPLIANCE WITH THEM

Human rights and fundamental freedoms, including:

- *Prevention of torture*

United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture, Georgia, Fund Against Violation of Law, United States of America, Denmark (on behalf of the European Union), Human Rights Society of Uzbekistan, Switzerland, Association for the Prevention of Torture, Armenia, International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims, Amnesty International, Norway, Turkey, Turkish Cypriot Human Rights Committee, Kyrgyz Committee for Human Rights, Finland to a Constitutional State-Movement, ICAR Foundation, Helsinki Committee for Human Rights of Moldova, Kyrgyzstan, Poland, Moldova, Council

of Europe, Russian Federation, International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights, National Ombudsman Office of Ukraine

Right of reply: OSCE Mission to Moldova, Belarus, Azerbaijan, Lithuania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Greece, United States of America, Cyprus, Turkey

- *International humanitarian law:*

United States of America (statement delivered on 27 October 1998; see Journal No. 2), France (on behalf of the European Union), International Committee of the Red Cross, Amnesty International, Canada, Switzerland, Norway, Russian Federation, Norwegian Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, Sweden (on behalf of the Nordic countries)

4. Next meeting:

Friday, 30 October 1998, at 10 a.m., in the Conference Hall

HDIM98/JOURNAL No. 5
30 October 1998

5th DAY OF THE IMPLEMENTATION MEETING
ON HUMAN DIMENSION ISSUES

SESSION 7 (open)

1. Date: Friday, 30 October 1998

Opened: 10.15 a.m.

Suspended: 1.15 p.m.

Resumed: 3.05 p.m.

Closed: 6.00 p.m.

2. Chairman: Mr. L. Mevik (Moderator)

3. Subjects discussed - Statements - Decisions:

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN DIMENSION
COMMITMENTS AND THE PROCEDURES FOR MONITORING
COMPLIANCE WITH THEM

Tolerance and non-discrimination:

Netherlands (on behalf of the European Union)

- *Equality of opportunity for men and women;*

United States of America, Croatia, Denmark (on behalf of the European Union), National Ombudsman Office of Ukraine, Council of Europe, Switzerland, Human Rights Watch, ODIHR, Canada, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Union "Women of the Don Region", Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Women for Women's Human Rights, United Nations Development Fund for Women, United Nations Development Programme, OSCE Liaison Office in Central Asia, Project Parity, National Council of Women in Denmark, Minority Rights Group International, Norway, Russian Federation, Women Today

Right of reply: Armenia, Azerbaijan

- *Preventing aggressive nationalism; Ethnic cleansing:*

Imvrian Union Macedonia-Thrace, International League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples, Kyrgyzstan, Federal Union of European Nationalities, Macedonian Human Rights Movement of Canada, World Federation of Hungarians, Committee for the Protection of Individuals' Rights of Uzbekistan, International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights, Finland (on behalf of the European Union), Turkey, Hungary, Macedonian Scientific Institute - Sofia, Albania

Right of reply: Turkey, Azerbaijan, Greece, Bulgaria, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Cyprus, Romania

- *Racism, Chauvinism, Xenophobia, Anti-semitism*

National Conference on Soviet Jewry, Belarusian Helsinki Committee, Council of Europe, Ex-Soviet Jewry Committee, Federation of Western Thracian Turks in Europe (ABTF), Turkish Cypriot Human Rights Committee, Netherlands (on behalf of the European Union), International Lesbian and Gay Association, Russian Federation, Belarus

Right of reply: Russian Federation, Cyprus, Greece, Liechtenstein, Turkey

4. Next meeting:

Friday, 30 October 1998, at 3 p.m., in the Conference Hall

SESSION 8 (open)

1. Date: Friday, 30 October 1998

Opened: 6.05 p.m.
Suspended: 6.40 p.m.
Resumed: 10.10 a.m. (Monday, 2 November 1998)
Closed: 11.40 a.m.

2. Chairman: Mr. L. Mevik (Moderator)

3. Subjects discussed - Statements - Decisions:

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN DIMENSION
COMMITMENTS AND THE PROCEDURES FOR MONITORING
COMPLIANCE WITH THEM

Migration, refugees and displaced persons. Migrant workers.

United States of America, International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights,
Memorial - Human Rights Centre, European Council on Refugees and Exiles,
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Norwegian Refugee Council,
Council of Europe, Russian Federation, Austria-European Union, Armenia,
Kyrgyzstan, Legal Information Centre for Human Rights, Belarus, Turkey,
Cyprus, Azerbaijan, Switzerland, Ukraine, Fund Against Violation of Law

Right of reply: Turkey, Armenia, Azerbaijan

4. Next meeting:

Monday, 2 November 1998, at 10 a.m., in the Conference Hall

HDIM98/JOURNAL No. 6
2 November 1998

6th DAY OF THE IMPLEMENTATION MEETING
ON HUMAN DIMENSION ISSUES

SESSION 9 (open)

1. Date: Monday, 2 November 1998

Opened: 11.45 a.m.
Suspended: 1.00 p.m.
Resumed: 3.05 p.m.
Closed: 3.35 p.m.

2. Chairman: Mr. L. Mevik (Moderator)

3. Subjects discussed - Statements - Decisions:

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN DIMENSION
COMMITMENTS AND THE PROCEDURES FOR MONITORING
COMPLIANCE WITH THEM

*Culture and education. Cultural heritage. Human contacts. Treatment of
citizens of other participating States.*

International League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples, Council of
Europe, World Federation of Hungarians, Finland to a Constitutional State-
Movement, Kyrgyzstan, Federal Union of European Nationalities, Estonian
World Council, Norway, United States of America, Armenia, Azerbaijan,
Austria, Cyprus, Bulgaria

Right of reply: Turkey, Russian Federation, Ukraine, Armenia, the former
Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Hungary

4. Next meeting:

Monday, 2 November 1998, at 3 p.m., in the Conference Hall

SESSION 10 (open)

1. Date: Monday, 2 November 1998

Opened: 3.40 p.m.

Suspended: 6.05 p.m.

Resumed: 10.05 a.m. (Tuesday, 3 November 1998)

Closed: 11.10 a.m.

2. Chairman: Mr. L. Mevik (Moderator)

3. Subjects discussed - Statements - Decisions:

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN DIMENSION
COMMITMENTS AND THE PROCEDURES FOR MONITORING
COMPLIANCE WITH THEM

National minorities:

Canada, Moldova, Denmark, Switzerland, Council of Europe, United Nations
High Commissioner for Refugees, Austria-European Union, Kyrgyzstan,
Liechtenstein, Bulgaria, Minority Rights Group International, United States of
America, Georgia, Belarus, Norway, Hungary, World Federation of
Hungarians, Federal Union of European Nationalities, Azerbaijan, Greek
Helsinki Monitor, Rainbow (Vinozito) Organization of the Macedonian
National Minority of Greece, Slovak Republic, Germany, Norwegian Roma
Association, Central Council of German Sinti and Roma, Armenia, Greece,
Russian Federation

Right of reply: Turkey, Romania, Croatia, Greece, Azerbaijan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

The representatives of the Romani Interests Organization and the Human Rights Project spoke on the subject of Roma and Sinti (see Journal No. 7).

4. Next meeting:

Tuesday, 3 November 1998 at 10 a.m., in the Conference Hall

HDIM98/JOURNAL No. 7
3 November 1998

7th DAY OF THE IMPLEMENTATION MEETING
ON HUMAN DIMENSION ISSUES

SESSION 11 (open)

1. Date: Tuesday, 3 November 1998

Opened: 11.10 a.m.
Suspended: 1.05 p.m.
Resumed: 3.05 p.m.
Closed: 4.20 p.m.

2. Chairman: Mr. L. Mevik (Moderator)

3. Subjects discussed - Statements - Decisions:

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN DIMENSION
COMMITMENTS AND THE PROCEDURES FOR MONITORING
COMPLIANCE WITH THEM

Roma and Sinti.

Romani Interests Organization (statement delivered on 2 November 1998; see Journal No. 6), Human Rights Project (statement delivered on 2 November 1998; see Journal No. 6), United States of America, Council of Europe, Norway, Hungary, Netherlands (on behalf of the European Union), Minority Rights Group - Greece, European Roma Rights Center, Autonomia Foundation, Institute for Educational Policy, Open Society Institute, Roma Union - Berlin, Bulgaria, Russian Federation, Latvia, Minority Rights Group International, Council of Polish Roma, Romani Union, Romano Centro, Romedia Foundation, Romani Criss, Roma National Congress, Project on Ethnic Relations, Czech Republic, Ukraine, Advisory Board on Romani Affairs

(also on behalf of the Nordic Romani Council), General Union of Romany,
Romani Youth Movement for Reforms, Councilul General of Roma

Right of reply: Greece, Switzerland, Hungary, Romania

4. Next meeting:

Tuesday, 3 November 1998, at 3 p.m., in the Conference Hall

SESSION 12 (open)

1. Date: Tuesday, 3 November 1998

Opened: 4.25 p.m.

Closed: 5.50 p.m.

2. Chairman: Mr. L. Mevik (Moderator)

3. Subjects discussed - Statements - Decisions:

The Director of ODIHR informed the Meeting that an attack had taken place on an NGO representative, Mr. Talib Yakubov, Secretary General of the Human Rights Society of Uzbekistan, who had been on his way to the Conference Centre when he was attacked. The Director advised the Meeting that Mr. Yakubov was in hospital and that the police were investigating the incident.

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN DIMENSION COMMITMENTS AND THE PROCEDURES FOR MONITORING COMPLIANCE WITH THEM

Human Dimension mechanisms and other relevant procedures. Further integration of the Human Dimension in the regular activities of the Permanent Council. The functioning of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. Election observation: reports, procedures and co-operation framework

Head of Election Section - ODIHR, United States of America, Minority Rights Group International, Russian Federation, Switzerland, Sweden (on behalf of the European Union), Canada, Italy, Finland to a Constitutional State-Movement, United Kingdom (on behalf of the European Union), Azerbaijan, Norway, Romania, Norwegian Helsinki Committee (also on behalf of the International Helsinki Federation), Norwegian Institute for Human Rights

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 4 November 1998 at 10 a.m., in the Conference Hall

8th DAY OF THE IMPLEMENTATION MEETING
ON HUMAN DIMENSION ISSUES

SESSION 13 (open)

1. Date: Wednesday, 4 November 1998

Opened: 10.10 a.m.

Closed: 12 noon

2. Chairman: Mr. L. Mevik (Moderator)

3. Subjects discussed - Statements - Decisions:

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN DIMENSION
COMMITMENTS AND THE PROCEDURES FOR MONITORING
COMPLIANCE WITH THEM

Further integration of the Human Dimension in the work of the OSCE long- and short-term Missions. Programme of Co-ordinated Support for recently admitted participating States. Improved dissemination of information regarding the Human Dimension. Human Dimension seminars and regional seminars. Co-operation between the OSCE and other international organizations.

Moldova, Switzerland, Luxembourg (on behalf of the European Union), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Russian Federation, Human Rights Watch (also on behalf of International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights, Norwegian Helsinki Committee, Conference of European Churches, Amnesty International and Minority Rights Group), Canada, Kazakstan, Ireland (on behalf of the European Union), Belarus, United States of America, Council of Europe, Malta, Germany (on behalf of the European Union),

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 4 November 1998, at 3 p.m., in the Conference Hall

SESSION 14 (open)

1. Date: Wednesday, 4 November 1998

Opened: 3.10 p.m.

Closed: 5.05 p.m.

2. Chairman: Mr. L. Mevik (Moderator)

3. Subjects discussed - Statements - Decisions:

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN DIMENSION COMMITMENTS AND THE PROCEDURES FOR MONITORING COMPLIANCE WITH THEM

Role of NGOs, including:

- *Contribution of NGOs to the Human Dimension;*
- *Co-operation between relevant NGOs and OSCE Institutions and instruments;*
- *Strengthening dialogue between governments and NGOs.*

Conference of European Churches, Switzerland, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Canada, Norwegian Helsinki Committee, Ireland (on behalf of the European Union), Minority Rights Group International, Norway, United States of America, Russian Federation, Turkey, Finland to a Constitutional State-Movement, Finland (on behalf of the Nordic countries), Kazakstan, Committee for the Protection of Individuals' Rights of Uzbekistan, Belarusian Non-Governmental Organization "United Way", Belarus, Albanian Centre of Human Rights, Malta, Denmark

Right of reply: Turkey, Azerbaijan

ODIHR Chairmanship

9th DAY OF THE IMPLEMENTATION MEETING
ON HUMAN DIMENSION ISSUES

SECOND PLENARY MEETING (open)

1. Date: Thursday, 5 November 1998

Opened: 3.10 p.m.
Closed: 5.30 p.m.
2. Chairman: Mr. G. Stoudmann
3. Subjects discussed - Statements - Decision:

STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OSCE

The Secretary General

STATEMENT BY THE HEAD OF THE OSCE KOSOVO VERIFICATION
MISSION

Head of the OSCE Kosovo Verification Mission

STATEMENT BY THE MODERATOR OF THE WORKING SESSIONS

Moderator of the Working Sessions

PRESENTATION BY THE RAPPORTEURS OF INFORMAL
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING IMPLEMENTATION

Rapporteurs of the Working Sessions

CONCLUDING STATEMENTS

Ms Janne Matlary, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of
Norway, addressed the Meeting.

Ms Nina Mazai, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of
Belarus, addressed the Meeting.

Open Society Institute, Uzbekistan, Slovak Republic, Russian Federation, European Roma Rights Center, Minority Rights Group International, Czech Republic, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan

The delegation of Poland informed the Meeting of the current status regarding the injured NGO representative of the Human Rights Society of Uzbekistan.

4. Next meeting:

Friday, 6 November 1998 at 10 a.m., in the Conference Hall

HDIM98/JOURNAL No. 10
6 November 1998

ODIHR Chairmanship

10th DAY OF THE IMPLEMENTATION MEETING
ON HUMAN DIMENSION ISSUES

THIRD PLENARY MEETING (open)

1. Date: Friday, 6 November 1998

Opened: 10.10 a.m.

Closed: 1.00 p.m.

2. Chairman: Mr. P. Eicher

3. Subjects discussed - Statements - Decision:

CONCLUDING STATEMENTS

Council of Europe, Austria-European Union, Romani Criss, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, United States of America, Switzerland, Croatia, Azerbaijan, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Amnesty International, Malta, OSCE Advisory and Monitoring Group in Belarus, Hungary, Canada, Finland to a Constitutional State-Movement, Armenia, Holy See, Romania, Latvia, Estonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Helsinki Citizens Assembly, Bulgaria, Jehovah's Witnesses, Poland

Right of reply: Turkey, Armenia

After a concluding statement, the Chairman formally closed the Implementation Meeting on Human Dimension Issues.