



HDIM

Closing Session, Friday, 7 October 2011

Intervention, Ambassador Greminger, HDC Chair

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

Let me first commend you on the organization of another excellent Human Dimension Implementation Meeting.

My intervention in my function as Chair of the Human Dimension Committee will be very brief, since I had an opportunity to address the HDIM in the opening session. I would like to focus on the four following issues for the way forward:

1. I will begin with the topic of the reform or, if you wish, modernization of **human dimension events**. There have been discussions on reviewing OSCE human dimension events for many years already. Many suggestions for improving the human dimension events have been made, but positions so far appeared to be too divergent to embark on a successful process of change. More recently, the Lithuanian chairmanship has taken note of an increased interest of participating States to review and improve the organization and modalities of the human dimension meetings. We agreed together to commission a study by a Swiss think tank to identify and recommend options on how to make the human dimension events more attractive, effective, and focused. The consultants conducting this study have started their work a few weeks ago. I am aware that many of you have met with them either in Vienna or last week here in Warsaw and I would like to thank you for your availability.

We will launch the discussion on this issue next Tuesday in the framework of the Human Dimension Committee. The mentioned consultants will present a first outline of the study and delegations will have a chance to voice their opinions on the review. After the HDC, an informal working group could continue to work on the issue. A progress report is planned for the Ministerial Council in Vilnius. The final version of the study is due by the first quarter of 2012.

My first and - necessarily still superficial - impression is that most stakeholders highly value many aspects of current human dimension events. At the same time hardly anybody contests that there is considerable room for improvement. The expectations are quite different, though, so the review process will not be an easy

ride and it will take time. However, I am convinced that, it is doable, provided there is the necessary political will from all sides.

2. Let me share with you our thoughts on the **follow-up given to this year's the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting**. ODIHR will publish the report including recommendations out of these two weeks of debate and exchange by the end of the month. Ambassador Lenarcic will present the report to the Permanent Council on 27 October. On the basis of this report and the PC discussion the Lithuanian Chairmanship will produce a perception paper, in close cooperation with the HDC Chair, with the aim to flesh out priorities for future human dimension work. The perception paper will then be discussed by the last Human Dimension Committee of this year. The results of this discussion will then, together with the priorities defined by the incoming Chairmanship, provide us with a solid basis for the human dimension work in the coming year, inter alia for the work plan 2012 of the Human Dimension Committee. I trust that such a practice would give a more meaningful follow-up to the recommendations drawn from these two weeks of intense HDIM discussions.
3. On the **further cooperation with the civil society**, I am glad to hear that the Lithuanian Chairmanship is planning to hold a civil society conference on the eve of the Ministerial Council in Vilnius. It is an important opportunity to further strengthen our cooperation with civil society. In exchanges between my team, myself and many representatives of NGOs and research institutions during the past two weeks, we were offered a lot of input and support to the deliberations of the Human Dimension Committee. We are very grateful for this, since we would like to strengthen the dialogue with civil society at the level of the HDC as well. This year, we have already welcomed two representatives of NGOs, who are partners of ODIHR and our field operations. We will now look creatively at how we could expand this dialogue.
4. Finally, I would like **to thank ODIHR, HCNM, RFoM, the Secretariat and the OSCE field operations** for their support and excellent cooperation throughout the year with the Human Dimension Committee. We are, in the entire committee, looking forward to the continuation of this close and productive cooperation with the executive structures of the OSCE.

Thank you