

## **Intervention by Mission Europa**

# **Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting**

### **Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and Association**

**Vienna, April 17, 2015**

#### **Session II**

#### **Non-Discrimination and the Freedoms of Peaceful Assembly**

Mission Europa is an Austrian NGO and as such, since 2008, the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, has been part of the organizing team for a torchlight march in order to bring to light the persecution of Christians, especially in countries of the Middle East.

Mission Europa also supports Christians such as Chaldeans, Arameans, and others, living in Austria.

Mission Europa can participate in and organize these marches without any hindrance from the authorities; however, we have noticed that the dialogue the OSCE would like to see taking place, is refused by the authorities.

As a result, the recently adopted Law on Islam did not include the concerns expressed by the public.

Mission Europa thus makes the following recommendation:

- That participating States ensure that a real and genuine dialogue take place with civil society.