



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
Permanent Council**

PC.DEC/860  
31 July 2008

Original: ENGLISH

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**724th Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 724, Agenda item 2

**DECISION No. 860  
AGENDA FOR THE 2008 HUMAN DIMENSION  
IMPLEMENTATION MEETING**

The Permanent Council,

Recalling Decision No. 476 (PC.DEC/476) of 23 May 2002, on the modalities for OSCE meetings on human dimension issues,

Further recalling the provisions of the Helsinki Document 1992, Chapter I and Chapter VI, paragraph (9),

Recalling also its Decision No. 841 (PC.DEC/841) of 13 March 2008 on the dates for the 2008 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM), and Decision No. 842 (PC.DEC/842) of 13 March 2008, on the topics for the second part of the 2008 HDIM,

Decides to adopt the agenda for the 2008 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting as set out in the annex.

## **AGENDA FOR THE 2008 HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING**

Warsaw, 29 September to 10 October 2008

### **Monday, 29 September 2008**

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|----------------|---|
| 10 a.m.–1 p.m. | Opening plenary session   |
| 1–3 p.m.       | Break   |
| 3–6 p.m.       | Working session 1: Rule of law I, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>— Legislative transparency;</li><li>— Independence of the judiciary;</li><li>— Right to a fair trial;</li><li>— Follow-up to the 14–16 May 2008 Human Dimension Seminar on Constitutional Justice.</li></ul> |

### **Tuesday, 30 September 2008**

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|----------------|--|
| 10 a.m.–1 p.m. | Working session 2: Fundamental freedoms I, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>— Address by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media;</li><li>— Freedom of expression, free media and information.</li></ul>   |
| 1–3 p.m.       | Break  |
| 3–6 p.m.       | Working session 3: Fundamental freedoms II, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>— Freedom of assembly and association;</li><li>— Freedom of movement;</li><li>— National human rights institutions and the role of civil society in the protection of human rights.</li></ul> |

**Wednesday, 1 October 2008**

10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Working session 4: Rule of law II, including:

- Exchange of views on the question of abolition of capital punishment;
- Prevention of torture;
- Protection of human rights and fighting terrorism.

1–3 p.m.

Break

3–6 p.m.

Working session 5: Tolerance and non-discrimination I, including:

- Address by the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities;
- National minorities;
- Preventing aggressive nationalism, racism and chauvinism;
- Follow up to the 29–30 May 2008 Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on the Role of National Institutions against Discrimination in Combating Racism and Xenophobia with a Special Focus on Persons Belonging to National Minorities and Migrants.

**Thursday, 2 October 2008**

10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Working session 6: Tolerance and non-discrimination I (continued):

- Implementation of the OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti;
- Follow up to the 10–11 July 2008 Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Sustainable Policies of Roma and Sinti Integration.

1–3 p.m.

Break

3–6 p.m.

Working session 7: Tolerance and non-discrimination II, including:

- Equality of opportunity for women and men;
- Implementation of the OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality;
- Prevention of violence against women.

**Friday, 3 October 2008**

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Working Session 8 (specifically selected topic):  
Education and awareness-raising in the promotion of  
human rights
- 1–3 p.m. Break
- 3–6 p.m. Working session 9 (specifically selected topic):  
Education and awareness-raising in the promotion of  
human rights (continued)

**Monday, 6 October 2008**

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Working session 10: Tolerance and non-discrimination  
II (continued):
- Review of the implementation of commitments,  
promotion of mutual respect and understanding and  
addressing hate crimes:
- Combating racism, xenophobia and  
discrimination, also focusing on intolerance and  
discrimination against Christians and members  
of other religions;
  - Combating anti-Semitism;
  - Combating intolerance and discrimination  
against Muslims.
- 1–3 p.m. Break
- 3–6 p.m. Working session 11: Humanitarian issues and other  
commitments, including:
- Migrant workers, the integration of legal  
migrants;
  - Refugees and displaced persons;
  - Treatment of citizens of other  
participating States.

**Tuesday, 7 October 2008**

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Working session 12 (specifically selected topic):  
Freedom of religion or belief

- 1–3 p.m. Break
- 3–6 p.m. Working session 13 (specifically selected topic):  
Freedom of religion or belief (continued)

**Wednesday, 8 October 2008**

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Working session 14 (specifically selected topic):  
Focus on identification, assistance and access to justice  
for the victims of trafficking
- 1–3 p.m. Break
- 3–6 p.m. Working session 15 (specifically selected topic):  
Focus on identification, assistance and access to justice  
for the victims of trafficking (continued)

**Thursday, 9 October 2008**

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Working session 16: Discussion of human dimension  
activities (with special emphasis on project work),  
including:
- Presentation of activities of the ODIHR and  
other OSCE institutions and field operations to  
implement priorities and tasks contained in the  
OSCE decisions and other documents.
- 1–3 p.m. Break
- 3–6 p.m. Working session 17: Democratic institutions, including:
- Democratic elections;
  - Democracy at the national, regional and local  
levels;
  - Citizenship and political rights.

**Friday, 10 October 2008**

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Closing reinforced plenary session (reinforced by the  
participation of human rights directors, OSCE  
ambassadors and heads of OSCE institutions):
- Any other business;
  - Closing.

PC.DEC/860  
31 July 2008  
Attachment

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**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER  
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE  
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND  
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of Turkmenistan:

“In connection with the decision adopted on the agenda of the 2008 OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, we would like to make the following interpretative statement.

The delegation of Turkmenistan has joined the consensus on this decision in the firm belief that the Chairmanship, the ODIHR and the participating States will continue to work out a specific solutions to our specific concern.

The delegation of Turkmenistan understands that human right defenders have an important role in the work of this Organization and that dialogue between participating States and civil society is an important aspect in the implementation of OSCE commitments.

The delegation of Turkmenistan is seriously concerned about the fact that deficiencies in the registration process, lack of clear criteria and the inability to deal with clear cut problem cases has undermined trust in the human dimension implementation meetings.

Over the past five years, several individuals who committed terrorist act in Turkmenistan in November 2002 and were sentenced by the Supreme Court of Turkmenistan have been able to participate in various human dimension implementation meetings under the cover of various NGOs that they have set up afterwards to whitewash their past and escape punishment. And this happened irrespective of the fact that these individuals ideally fit the single OSCE criteria for exclusion of NGOs and individuals from the OSCE events contained in the Helsinki Document of 1992 that stipulates that persons or organizations that commit or condone terrorism or violence cannot be invited to OSCE events.

The delegation of Turkmenistan consistently provided the necessary information on the crimes committed by these individuals and protested against their participation in OSCE events. To our great disappointment, this issue has received its due attention only after certain steps were undertaken by our delegation.

The delegation of Turkmenistan shall be watching very closely the forthcoming Warsaw meeting and, if these individuals shall appear again, the delegation of Turkmenistan reserves the right to take all necessary steps to prevent criminals from participating in our events, including the use of the right to join consensus on our future HDIM events.

During the last period, several participating States have asked for more time to deal with this issue and work out an acceptable way out of this situation. The Government of Turkmenistan in a spirit of co-operation agrees to that and appeals to use this time to approach this issue seriously because next time we may not only remain with a lack of appreciation for and resolution of our specific concerns but in addition to that with a lack of consensus and, more importantly, with a lack of good-will and co-operation.

For Turkmenistan, co-operation with the OSCE is important, and we will do everything not allow criminals to derail this co-operation.

We heard the appeal of the Chairmanship and the participating States and we now hope that the Chairmanship and the participating States shall hear our appeal as well.

We ask that this statement be attached to the decision adopted and included as an annex to the journal of the day.”