



603rd Plenary Meeting

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**DECISION No. 723
AGENDA, TIMETABLE AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL
MODALITIES OF THE 2006 HUMAN DIMENSION SEMINAR**

Warsaw, 10 to 12 May 2006

Upholding the Rule of Law and Due Process in Criminal Justice Systems

I. Agenda

1. Opening of the Seminar
2. Opening plenary: keynote addresses
3. Discussion in four working groups
4. Closing plenary: summing up and closing of the Seminar

II. Timetable and other organizational modalities

1. The Seminar will open in Warsaw on Wednesday, 10 May 2006, at 10 a.m. It will close on Friday, 12 May 2006, at 6 p.m.
2. All plenary sessions and working group sessions will be open to all participants.
3. The closing plenary session, scheduled for Friday afternoon, will focus on practical suggestions and recommendations for addressing the issues discussed during the working group sessions.
4. The plenary and working group sessions will take place in accordance with the work programme below.
5. A representative of the ODIHR will chair the plenary sessions.
6. The standard OSCE rules of procedure and working methods will be applied at the Seminar.

7. Discussions during the plenary and working group sessions will be interpreted from and into the six working languages of the OSCE.

Working Group I: An independent judiciary and due process in criminal justice systems

- Challenges to the independence of the judiciary in the OSCE participating States and possible safeguards;
- The role of judicial supervision and review in upholding human rights at the pre-trial stage of criminal proceedings;
- Response to allegations of inhuman or degrading treatment and torture: responsibilities of judges in the OSCE participating States;
- Ensuring the integrity of the judiciary as a prerequisite for due process;
- Accurate trial records as an element of due process and effective remedy for appeal of judicial decisions.

Working Group II: Accountable and responsive policing in upholding the rule of law

- The role of independent external oversight in modern policing;
- Why responsiveness to the public is an essential benchmark of good policing practice;
- The importance of police/prosecutorial co-operation in ensuring respect for the rule of law and the application of norms of human rights.

Working Group III: The role of public prosecutors in upholding the rule of law

- Responsibilities of public prosecutors in ensuring due process and protection of human rights in the criminal justice systems of the participating States;
- The importance of the relationship between public prosecutors and the executive powers in upholding the rule of law;
- The functions of prosecutorial organs and their co-operation with other legal institutions: challenges and solutions in the OSCE area.

Working Group IV: Defence lawyers as a fundamental pillar of an effective criminal justice system

- Follow-up to the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on the Role of Defence Lawyers in Guaranteeing a Fair Trial (Tbilisi, 3 and 4 November 2005):

- (a) Access to legal counsel;
 - (b) Admission to and regulation of the bar;
 - (c) Equality of parties in criminal proceedings;
- Relationship between defence lawyers and prosecutors: ensuring the balance compatible with rule of law and the interests of justice.

WORK PROGRAMME

Working hours: 10 a.m.–1 p.m.
3–6 p.m.

	Wednesday 10 May 2006	Thursday 11 May 2006	Friday 12 May 2006
Morning	Opening plenary session	WG II	WG IV
Afternoon	WG I	WG III	Closing plenary session