



## **Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting**

### **Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and Association, with Emphasis on Freedom of Association 16-17 April 2015**

**Hofburg, Vienna**

#### **To civil society**

Based on the Helsinki Document of 1992 (Chapter IV) calling for increased openness in OSCE activities and for expanding the role of NGOs, OSCE would like to invite civil society organizations to the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting to be held on the subject of 'Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and Association, with Emphasis on Freedom of Association' which will take place in the Hofburg Congress Centre in Vienna, on 16 – 17 April 2015.

According to a decision of the Permanent Council (PC.DEC/476, 23 May 2002), each year, the Chairman-in-Office organizes three informal Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings (SHDMs), in the framework of the Permanent Council, in order to discuss key substantive concerns raised at the previous Human Dimension Meetings or Review Conferences. The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) as well as other OSCE institutions assist the Chairman-in-Office in preparing the SHDMs.

The first Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting in 2015 will address the topic of Freedoms of Peaceful Assembly and Association, with Emphasis on Freedom of Association. The meeting will provide a forum for discussion of how the freedoms of peaceful assembly and association contribute to achieving democracy and human security. The topics will include a human security approach to freedoms of peaceful assembly and association, non-discrimination and the freedoms of peaceful assembly and association and enhancing the participation of associations in public decision-making processes. The discussion will focus on the role of the OSCE participating States and other actors in safeguarding and promoting relevant OSCE commitments.

Recommendations from the meeting may be addressed to participating States, OSCE institutions, including the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, OSCE executive structures, the OSCE at large, other inter-governmental or non-governmental organizations, as well as other civil society actors in OSCE participating States. Additional information relevant to the SHDM, including annotated agenda can be found on ODIHR website at <https://www.osce.org/odihr/144086>

Civil society representatives are invited to forward this information to other relevant actors in the given field.

## **Registration & Modalities**

On-line registration for all participants is available at <http://meetings.odihr.pl>. Participants are advised **to register by Wednesday, 25 March 2015**.

The registration will also be available online after the deadline and during the Meeting on the spot, however, to facilitate the preparation for the meeting, (e.g. preparation of badges and printing of sufficient amount of materials) the earliest possible registration would be highly appreciated. Registered participants will be able to collect their badges as of Thursday, 16 April 2015 from 09:00 in the main entrance hall of the Hofburg Congress Centre. Those participants who experience problems with registration are requested to contact Ms. Anna Sierant (contact details below).

Unfortunately, the ODIHR is not in a position to provide any financial assistance for participation in the SHDM. Participants are kindly requested to make their own travel and hotel arrangements. You can find a list of selected hotels in Vienna on the ODIHR website.

Participants may display information materials on the tables in the lobby of the main meeting room. They may also distribute documents during the SHDM by giving one copy of each document (maximum 3 pages in length) to staff of the Document Distribution Centre. Participants are encouraged to intervene during the SHDM Working Sessions while limiting their statements to the specific issues at hand thereby contributing to a genuine discussion.

The meeting will be interpreted into the six official OSCE languages: English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish.

## **Side events**

Side events may be held over the course of two days during the SHDM. Participants wishing to organize a side event should send the side events' checklist **by 8 April to Mr. Ireneusz Stepinski**, ODIHR at [Ireneusz.Stepinski@odihr.pl](mailto:Ireneusz.Stepinski@odihr.pl). Additional information on the content and objectives of any side event, as well as timing and duration are available on the SHDM website, in the 'Side events check-list' document.

## **In case of any questions, please contact:**

*Substantive content matters:* Ms. Nathalie Tagwerker, ODIHR at [Nathalie.Tagwerker@odihr.pl](mailto:Nathalie.Tagwerker@odihr.pl) or +48 22 5200 164

*Registration of participants:* Ms. Anna Sierant, ODIHR at [Anna.Sierant@odihr.pl](mailto:Anna.Sierant@odihr.pl) or +48 22 5200 627

*Organizational matters and organization of side events:* Mr. Ireneusz Stepinski, ODIHR at [Ireneusz.Stepinski@odihr.pl](mailto:Ireneusz.Stepinski@odihr.pl) or +48 22 52 00 658