

ODIHR Update

No. 1, 2 April 2015



Link: Security's human dimension still vital in time of crisis



ODIHR Director Michael Georg Link, in a 12 March report to the OSCE Permanent Council, described as “flawed logic” arguments that the crisis in and around Ukraine makes relationships complicated enough without questions about human rights and democracy. He stressed the current situation should not be used as an excuse to pay less attention to or even ignore the human dimension of security.

“Under no circumstances can security be reduced to mere confidence and security-building measures, or to a dialogue of de-escalation in the military field, as important as that, certainly, will always be,” Link said in his second report to the

Link warned the crisis in and around Ukraine could not be used as an excuse to ignore human rights and democracy.

Permanent Council since taking up the post at ODIHR in July of last year.

Link encouraged participating States to commission a comprehensive overview of the implementation of human dimension commitments and new measures to increase the effectiveness of the implementation of human dimension commitments.

While he noted that the proposal might appear bold, ten years after the first review, which ODIHR was commissioned to do in 2005 “is the time to be bold”.

ODIHR and Venice Commission launch Guidelines on Freedom of Association



Alice Thomas, Chief of ODIHR's Legislative Support Unit, at the launch of the guidelines in Geneva, 5 March.

To provide assistance and expertise on legislating on and advocating for freedom of association, ODIHR launched a new publication at a UN Human Rights Council session in Geneva, 5 March 2015.

The Guidelines on Freedom of Association, produced in co-operation with the Council of Europe's Venice Commission, provide practitioners, including lawmakers and civil society organizations, with recommendations and examples on treating freedom of association-related matters in line with international standards and OSCE Commitments.

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ODIHR Director in Washington for Security Days



Link taking part in the panel in Washington, D.C. as part of Security Days, 17 March 2015.

During his four-day visit to Washington D.C. from 16 to 20 March, ODIHR Director Michael Georg Link took part in a one-day Security Days event organized in co-operation with the Wilson Center.

As a member of a 17 March panel on “Afghanistan and Central Asia: Enhancing Stability and Security in the Region”, Link shared some of the findings and recommendations contained in the report on last year’s

presidential and provincial council elections by the election support team sent by ODIHR.

While Link also told the audience that efforts to combat terrorism and counteract violent extremism, including as a result of any spillover from the security situation in Afghanistan, were vital, he stressed that any measures in this area had to fully comply with the rule of law and be in accordance with obligations under

international law, and particularly with full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

To ensure this, the ODIHR Director said, greater efforts have to be made to adopt a regional approach to this question in Central Asia, including with Afghanistan, in the sharing of experiences, best practices and challenges.

Latest recruitment notices at ODIHR

Deputy Head, Elections Department

Location: Warsaw

Grade: P4

Closing date: 7 April 2015

[Full detail](#) on OSCE website

Proofreader

Location: Warsaw

Grade: Experts/Consultants

Closing date: 6 April 2015

[Full detail](#) on OSCE website

Upcoming Election Needs Assessment Missions*

Turkey – 14-17 April

Albania – 15-17 April

Croatia – 6-8 May

Switzerland – 9-12 June

*The determination of whether to carry out observation activities and, if so, in what formats will be determined based on the recommendations in the missions’ reports.