



Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting

FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF: ISSUES, OPPORTUNITIES, AND THE SPECIFIC CHALLENGES OF COMBATting ANTI-SEMITISM AND INTOLERANCE AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST CHRISTIANS, MUSLIMS AND MEMBERS OF OTHER RELIGIONS

22- 23 June 2017
Hofburg, Vienna

AGENDA

Day 1 22 June 2017

15:00 – 16:00

OPENING SESSION

Opening remarks:

Mr. Michael Georg Link, Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR)

Ambassador Clemens Koja, Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council, Permanent Representative of Austria to the OSCE

Keynote speech:

Professor Marco Ventura, Professor of law and religion, University of Siena; member, OSCE/ODIHR Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief

Technical information by **Ms. Katarzyna Gardapkhadze**, First Deputy Director, OSCE/ODIHR

16:00 – 18:00

SESSION I: Freedom of religion or belief, non-discrimination and other human rights and fundamental freedoms as the essential normative basis for peaceful coexistence and security in the OSCE region

Introducers:

Dr Susan Kerr, Europe Advocacy Manager, Christian Solidarity Worldwide

Mr. Alexandr Klyushev, Chairperson, Association of Religious Organizations of Kazakhstan

Moderator: Mr Omer Fisher, Head, Human Rights Department, OSCE/ODIHR

18:30 – 21:00 Reception hosted by the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship at Volksgarten

Day 2 **23 June 2017**

09:00 – 10:30 **SESSION II: Revisiting the normative status and scope of the right to freedom of religion or belief – issues of conceptualization and the challenge of implementing OSCE commitments**

Introducers:

Ambassador Jean-Christophe Peaucelle, Advisor for Religious Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France

Professor Brett Scharffs, Director, International Center for Law and Religion Studies, Brigham Young University

Moderator: Ms. Stacy Bernard Davis, Unit Chief for Europe and Eurasia, Office of International Religious Freedom, US Department of State

10:30 – 11:00 Break

11:00 – 12:30 **SESSION III: Challenges of combatting anti-Semitism and intolerance and discrimination against Christians, Muslims and members of other religions**

Introducers:

Professor Ingeborg Gabriel, Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, also focusing on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians and Members of Other Religions

Rev. Dr. C. Welton Gaddy, President Emeritus and Senior Advisor of Interfaith Alliance Foundation and Radio Host of "State of Belief" in Washington D.C.

Dr Farid Hafez, Political Science Department at the University of Salzburg

Moderator: Mr. Larry Olomofe, Advisor on combatting racism and xenophobia and intolerance against Christians and other groups, OSCE/ODIHR (tbc)

12:30 – 14:00 **Lunch break / Side event** (Light lunch hosted by the Austrian Chairmanship, Vorsaal Hofburg)

14:00 – 16:00

SESSION IV: Interfaith and interreligious dialogue and cooperation and creating the conditions for peaceful and secure societies in the OSCE region

Introducers:

Ms. Ekaterina Chitanava, Director of the Tolerance and Diversity Institute, Tbilisi

Ms. Gabrielle Westhead, Convenor of the European Interfaith Youth Network; Chairperson, UK Interfaith Youth Network

Moderator: Dr Kishan Manocha, Senior Adviser on Freedom of Religion or Belief, OSCE/ODIHR

16:00 – 17:00

CLOSING SESSION

Rapports from the working sessions

Comments from the floor

Closing remarks

Ms. Katarzyna Gardapkhadze, First Deputy Director, OSCE/ODIHR

Ambassador Clemens Koja, Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council, Permanent Representative of Austria to the OSCE

17.00

Closing of the meeting