



SUPPLEMENTARY HUMAN DIMENSION MEETING

“CHALLENGES OF ELECTION TECHNOLOGIES AND PROCEDURES”

**21 – 22 April 2005
HOFBURG, VIENNA**

GENERAL GUIDELINES

The modalities for this meeting are set out in accordance with the decision of the Permanent Council (PC.DEC/476, as of 23 May 2002).

I. AIM OF THE MEETING

OVERVIEW

The main objective of this Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting is to discuss ongoing and emerging challenges, including those related to election technologies and procedures, with regard to implementation of OSCE election-related commitments and other international standards.

Further, the meeting will address: fostering public confidence as an essential element of organizing genuine democratic elections; realizing universal and equal suffrage by removing discrimination and encouraging the participation of women, inclusion of national minorities, and access for disabled persons; and establishing accountability for electoral actors through equal treatment before the law and by the authorities and the redress of violations, and ensuring transparency through the whole electoral process, as well as the role of international and domestic election observers for enhancing the integrity of election processes in line with OSCE Copenhagen Commitments.

The meeting will focus on the following three areas:

- An overview of new election technologies, such as electronic voting, as well as some comparison of the main systems in use;

- Ongoing challenges to implementation of existing OSCE commitments for democratic elections; and
- Election observation: Challenges to enhancing electoral integrity.

Recommendations may be addressed to the participating States, the OSCE as a whole, OSCE institutions including the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and its various Departments, as well as the OSCE field operations, or other inter-governmental or non-governmental organisations, as well as other civil society actors of the OSCE participating States.

II. LANGUAGES

Translation will be provided in the six working languages of the OSCE.

III. PARTICIPATION

Representatives of the OSCE participating States, OSCE institutions and OSCE field operations, representatives of international organizations and representatives of non-governmental organizations and other civil society actors will participate in the Meeting.

The 'partners for co-operation' and the 'Mediterranean partners for co-operation' are invited to attend and contribute with respect to their co-operation and links with the OSCE in the field.

IV. GUIDELINES FOR THE DEBATES

The intention is to develop a free-flowing discussion based on the keynote speeches, introductory remarks, background information and written statements circulated in advance or during the Meeting. To this end, **formal interventions in the form of prepared statements are not envisaged in the course of the Meeting and are discouraged.**

Prepared statements, background documentation, comments or other written materials may be submitted in advance for circulation by the Documents Distribution Centre.

V. ORGANIZATION

On-line registration for all participants is available at <http://meetings.odihr.pl>. In case of any questions, please contact Ms. Anna Sierant at Anna.Sierant@odihr.pl or at tel.: +48 22 520 06 00.

In addition, advance registration will be available on Thursday, 21 April, from 10:00 till 15:00 in the Hofburg Congress Centre, in the main entrance hall.

Registration during the Meeting is available at the same place.

VI. OTHER

Side events may be held in the course of the two days. Additional information on the content and objectives of any side event, as well as timing and duration will be made available shortly on the website of the Meeting.