

7 July 2014



ENGLISH only

**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights**

Warsaw, 07 July 2014

The Deputy Director

To all
Heads of Delegations of the OSCE participating States

Dear Heads of Delegations,

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality (MC.DEC/14/04), a Gender Equality Review Conference will be held on 10-11 July 2014 in Vienna, Austria. The event is organized by the Secretariat's Gender Section, the Swiss Chair-in-Office, and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) aiming to address gaps in the implementation of gender equality commitments and identify ways forward.

On the margins of the Gender Equality Review Conference, ODIHR is planning to host a

**Side Event to launch the ODIHR Handbook on Promoting Women's Participation
in Political Parties.**

The Side Event will be held on **Friday, 11 July 2014, 12.30 – 13.45, in Vienna, Hofburg, Segmentgalerie I**. English-Russian translation will be provided. Please find enclosed a draft Agenda for your reference.

The Side Event will provide an overview of the Handbook, which compiles and presents good practices for advancing women's participation in political parties in the OSCE region, as prescribed in the OSCE MC Decision 7/09 on Women's Participation in Political and Public Life. Conference participants, members of parliament, political actors, gender equality experts as well as representatives of international and civil society organizations will have the opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences on measures and strategies for advancing women's role in political parties.

We would be grateful if you could disseminate this information within your national networks and encourage your delegation representatives to participate. For additional information on the Side Event or on ODIHR's work to promote women's political participation, please contact Ms. Ajla van Heel, ODIHR Gender Adviser, ajla.vanheel@odihr.pl, tel. +48 22 5200 708.

Yours sincerely,

Beatriz Balbin
First Deputy Director

CC: Dr. Thomas Greminger, Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council
Ambassador Miroslava Beham, Senior Adviser on Gender Issues, OSCE Secretariat



OSCE Gender Equality Review Conference

SIDE EVENT

Launch of ODIHR *Handbook on Promoting Women's Participation in Political Parties*

Friday, 11 July 2014, 12.30 – 13.45
Vienna, Hofburg, Segmentgalerie I

OSCE participating States have committed themselves to promote the equal participation of women and men in political and public life. Yet women remain under-represented in politics and are excluded from the decision-making establishments within political parties and power networks in the OSCE region.

The Side Event will provide an overview of the ODIHR *Handbook on Promoting Women's Participation in Political Parties*, which aims to motivate political party leaders to facilitate, support and ensure women's access to party structures and elected office more broadly. Conference participants, members of parliament, political actors, gender equality experts as well as representatives of international and civil society organizations will have the opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences on good practices for advancing women's role in political parties in the OSCE region.

English-Russian translation will be provided. Light lunch will be served.

AGENDA

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| 12.45 – 12.50 | <p>Welcome
 Ms. Beatriz Balbin, First Deputy Director, OSCE/ODIHR</p> |
| 12.50 – 13.00 | <p>Presentation of ODIHR <i>Handbook on Promoting Women's Participation in Political Parties</i>
 Ms. Ajla van Heel, Gender Adviser, OSCE/ODIHR</p> |
| 13.00 – 13.40 | <p>Panel discussion with women politicians and activists from across the OSCE region
 Moderated by: Dr. Marcin Walecki, Chief of Democratic Governance and Gender Unit, OSCE/ODIHR</p> |
| 13.40 – 13.45 | <p>Conclusions and closing remarks</p> |