

709th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 709, Agenda item 4

**DECISION No. 845
AGENDA, TIMETABLE AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL
MODALITIES OF THE 2008 HUMAN DIMENSION SEMINAR**

Warsaw, 14 to 16 May 2008

Constitutional justice

I. Agenda

1. Opening of the Seminar
2. Opening plenary: keynote addresses
3. Discussion in four working groups
4. Closing plenary: summing up and closing of the Seminar

II. Timetable and other organizational modalities

1. The Seminar will open on Wednesday, 14 May 2008, at 10 a.m. It will close on Friday, 16 May 2008, at 6 p.m.
2. All plenary sessions and working group sessions will be open to all participants.
3. The closing plenary session, scheduled for the afternoon of 16 May 2008, will focus on practical suggestions and recommendations for addressing the issues discussed during the working group sessions.
4. The plenary and working group sessions will take place in accordance with the work programme below.
5. A representative of the ODIHR will chair the plenary sessions.
6. The Rules of Procedure of the OSCE and the modalities for OSCE meetings on human dimension issues (Permanent Council Decision No. 476) will be followed,

mutatis mutandis, at the Seminar. Also, the guidelines for organizing OSCE meetings (Permanent Council Decision No. 762) will be taken into account.

7. The discussions during the plenary and working group sessions will be interpreted from and into the six working languages of the OSCE.

Working group I: Constitutional justice and the rule of law

- Institutional models for ensuring the supremacy of constitutional provisions and safeguarding constitutional principles;
- Constitutional review of draft and adopted legislation — practices and lessons learned;
- Role of constitutional courts in fulfilling obligations in international law, including international human rights treaties, and co-operation with international bodies when appropriate.

Working group II: Constitutionalism and the separation of powers: the role of the courts*

- Interpreting and clarifying the boundaries of authority for the executive and the legislature;
- Horizontal accountability of State institutions and the role of the courts;
- Impact of court decisions on policy-making — practices and guiding principles;
- Stability of constitutional order and constitutional changes.

Working group III: Access to constitutional justice

- The right to petition constitutional courts — good practices and lessons learned;
- Co-operation of constitutional courts with civil society;
- Transparency and relationship with the media.

Working group IV: Independence and the effectiveness of constitutional courts

- Maintaining judicial impartiality and safeguarding independence;
- Ensuring compliance with court decisions;
- Practical measures to improve the administration of constitutional courts.

* All courts authorized to carry out constitutional review are hereinafter referred to as “courts”.

Work programme

Working hours: 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
3–6 p.m.

	Wednesday 14 May 2008	Thursday 15 May 2008	Friday 16 May 2008
Morning	Opening plenary	Working group II	Working group IV
Afternoon	Working group I	Working group III	Closing plenary