



CIO.GAL/32/05

16 March 2005

ENGLISH only

## Slovenian Chairmanship

Vienna, 16 March 2005

### **SUPPLEMENTARY HUMAN DIMENSION MEETING ON *CHALLENGES OF ELECTION TECHNOLOGIES AND PROCEDURES***

Dear Colleagues,

Please find enclosed the agenda, annotated agenda and organizational modalities for the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Challenges of Election Technologies and Procedures, which will take place in Vienna from 21 to 22 April 2005.

Please also circulate the attached information to relevant national NGOs.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Janez Lenarčič'.

Janez Lenarčič  
Chairman of the Permanent Council

To: All OSCE Delegations  
All OSCE Institutions  
OSCE Secretariat  
OSCE Missions and Other Field Activities  
OSCE Parliamentary Assembly  
All Partners for Co-operation

**SUPPLEMENTARY HUMAN DIMENSION MEETING**

**“CHALLENGES OF ELECTION TECHNOLOGIES AND  
PROCEDURES”**

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

**AGENDA**

**Day 1 Thursday, 21 April 2005**

15.00 - 16.00

**Opening Session:**

*Opening remarks:  
A representative of the OSCE Chairmanship and  
OSCE/ODIHR Director*

*Keynote speeches*

*Technical information by the OSCE/ODIHR*

16.00 - 18.00

**Session I: New Election Technologies: Emerging  
Challenges for Electoral Processes**

*Introductory speeches  
Discussion*

18:30

**Reception offered by the OSCE Chairmanship**

**Day 2**

**Friday, 22 April 2004**

09.00 - 12.00

**Session II: OSCE Election Commitments: Ongoing  
Challenges to Implementation - Copenhagen Plus as a  
Possible Means to Enhance Compliance**

*Introductory speeches  
Discussion*

12.00 - 14.00	Lunch
14.00 - 16.00	<p><b>Session III: Election Observation: Challenges to Enhancing Electoral Integrity</b></p> <p><i>Introductory speeches</i> <i>Discussion</i></p>
16.00 - 16.30	Break
16.30 - 17.30	<p><b>CLOSING PLENARY</b></p> <p><i>Reports by the Working Session Moderators</i> <i>Comments from the floor</i></p>
17:30	Close of Day 2

## **SUPPLEMENTARY HUMAN DIMENSION MEETING**

### **“CHALLENGES OF ELECTION TECHNOLOGIES AND PROCEDURES”**

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

#### **ANNOTATED AGENDA**

##### **OVERVIEW**

The 1990 Copenhagen Document presents a wide-ranging set of commitments agreed upon by the OSCE participating States for fostering the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms and the promotion of strong democratic institutions and rule of law. It includes commitments by participating States for the conduct of democratic elections throughout the OSCE region. In the 1990 Charter of Paris, the participating States committed to “undertake to build, consolidate and strengthen democracy as the only system of government of our nations,” recognizing that “democratic government is based on the will of the people, expressed regularly through free and fair elections.”

The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) is the main OSCE institution for the human dimension. A key element of the ODIHR’s human dimension mandate is the promotion of democratic elections i.e., elections that are universal, accountable, transparent, secret, free, fair, and equal, and which respect fundamental human rights.

Election observation continues to identify a number of 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. The OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting entitled “Challenges of Election Technologies and Procedures” 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. New technologies can pose challenges to the perceived transparency and accountability of an election process, and can impact *inter alia* on overall confidence in the process.
- Ongoing challenges to **implementation** of existing OSCE commitments for democratic elections. An examination of the issues, particularly concerning: 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.

- **Election observation:** Challenges to enhancing electoral integrity. Through the Copenhagen Document, OSCE participating States consider the presence of observers, both foreign and domestic, to enhance the electoral process, and they commit to invite observers from other participating States and appropriate private institutions and organizations. In order to ensure the transparency of all electoral processes, the election system should explicitly provide for the role of observers in all election operations. Election observers can offer recommendations with a view to improve the process, and thus can enhance overall confidence. However, as stated in the Copenhagen Document, observers undertake not to interfere in electoral proceedings.

## **SESSIONS**

### **Session I: New Election Technologies: Emerging Challenges for Electoral Processes**

New election technologies, such as electronic voting capacity in polling stations or remote electronic voting, have the potential to facilitate voter participation. However, new technologies may pose challenges to the perception of transparency and accountability of an election process. This session will give a brief introduction and overview to electronic voting, as well as some comparison of the main systems in use (touchscreen vs. optical scanning systems, networked vs. non-networked systems, voter-verifiable audit trail vs. non-verifiable systems, internet voting/phone voting, other methods of automated voting).

Topics for discussion will include:

- An overview of new and existing election technologies;
- Challenges and benefits of new technologies, and potential impact on voter confidence;
- Criteria electoral authorities use when choosing electronic voting technologies;
- Manner of introduction, including voter education, pilot testing and independent domestic verification;
- Challenges to observing electronic voting.

### **Session II: OSCE Election Commitments: Ongoing Challenges to Implementation - Copenhagen Plus as a Possible Means to Enhance Compliance**

OSCE/ODIHR election observation continues to identify a number of ongoing and emerging challenges to the implementation of OSCE election-related commitments. Ongoing challenges include decreasing voter turnout, the participation of women, the inclusion of national minorities, access for disabled voters, and challenges for other categories of voters (i.e. internally displaced persons, military voting, hospital voting, prison voting) in the election process.

In addition, adverse trends for the implementation of commitments continue to be in evidence, including: unjustified attempts to limit competition of parties and candidates; refusal of registration and/or de-registration of candidates; misuse of state administrative resources; media bias; election administration that lacks public confidence and is not sufficiently inclusive, lack of clear voter registration guidelines and safeguards to prevent abuse; lack of sufficient transparency and accountability during the vote count, the tabulation of the vote and the announcement of results; complaints and appeals procedures that do not always permit a timely and effective redress of complaints; and a lack of sufficient will to rectify identified shortcomings.

Topics for discussion will include:

- A discussion on how participating States, collectively and individually, may address the above issues, including through enhanced follow-up mechanisms and additional commitments;
- Ensuring participation of women, minorities, disabled persons; internally displaced persons, and other specific categories in the electoral process.
- Follow-up to recommendations contained in OSCE/ODIHR reports, in accordance with the Istanbul Summit Declaration;
- The role that civil society may play in promoting the implementation of such recommendations; and
- Elaboration of the concept of a “Copenhagen Plus”, which was discussed during the July 2004 Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting, as a possible means to further enhance compliance with commitments.

### **Session III: Election Observation: Challenges to Enhancing Electoral Integrity**

OSCE participating States are committed to democracy and to holding democratic elections. In the 1990 Copenhagen Document, participating States agreed that the presence of observers, both foreign and domestic, can enhance the electoral process. Since 1996, the OSCE/ODIHR has followed a comprehensive observation methodology that is objective, transparent and accountable, and addresses developments before, during and after election day. Other international governmental and non-governmental organizations, including the European Union, have embraced the OSCE/ODIHR methodology and adopted similar approaches. In recent years, the Commonwealth of Independent States has also become active in the field of election observation. Domestic observation also contributes significantly to transparency, and hence confidence in electoral processes.

Topics for discussion will include:

- The role of international and domestic election observers (in particular domestic non-partisan observers), for enhancing the integrity of election processes in line with OSCE Copenhagen Commitments;
- Comprehensive election observation methodologies, both international and domestic, used to assess all elements of an election process – before, during and after election day;
- The interaction between international and domestic observers;
- Facilitating election observation in order to increase voter confidence.

**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](mailto: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.



## SUPPLEMENTARY HUMAN DIMENSION MEETING

### ***“CHALLENGES OF ELECTION TECHNOLOGIES AND PROCEDURES”***

Vienna, 21 – 22 APRIL 2005

#### **To non-governmental organisations**

Please find attached the agenda, the annotated agenda and general guidelines relating to the upcoming OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on "Challenges of Election Technologies and Procedures" to be held at the Hofburg Congress Centre in Vienna on 21 – 22 April 2005. The documents are also available on the ODIHR web-site at <http://www.osce.org/odihr>.

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

NGOs whose activities directly relate to the topic of the Meeting and wish to attend are requested to register on-line for this event by Wednesday, 6 April 2005. We encourage NGOs to register on-line at <http://meetings.odihr.pl> if at all possible. Alternatively, you may return a completed NGO registration form by fax at + 48 22 250 06 03.

NGOs are invited to forward this information to other relevant actors in the given field.

Please note that participants can pick up their passes for the meeting venue in advance on Thursday, 21 April, from 10.00 at the Hofburg Congress Centre in the main entrance hall.

NGOs may display information materials about their organisation on the tables in the lobby of the main meeting room. NGOs may also distribute documents during the Meeting by giving one copy of each document (maximum 3 pages in length) to staff of the Document Distribution Centre. NGOs are encouraged to participate actively in the Working Sessions while limiting their interventions to the specific issues at hand thereby contributing to a genuine discussion.

Unfortunately, the ODIHR is not in a position to provide any financial assistance for NGOs to participate in this Meeting. For your convenience please find attached a list of hotels in Vienna. NGOs are kindly requested to make their own hotel arrangements.

For further information please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Vadim Zhdanovich, ODIHR Election Advisor or Ms. Anna Sierant, Administrative Assistant, tel: +48 22 520 06 00, e-mail: [Vadim.Zhdanovich@odihr.pl](mailto:Vadim.Zhdanovich@odihr.pl) or [Anna.Sierant@odihr.pl](mailto:Anna.Sierant@odihr.pl) or [office@odihr.pl](mailto:office@odihr.pl)



SUPPLEMENTARY  
M E E T I N G

**NGO**

**SUPPLEMENTARY HUMAN DIMENSION MEETING  
on**

**CHALLENGES OF ELECTION TECHNOLOGIES AND  
PROCEDURES**

**Vienna, 21 – 22 April 2005**

**NGO REGISTRATION FORM**

**(You are encouraged to register via internet: <http://meetings.odihr.pl>)**

Deadline for registration: Wednesday, 6 April 2005

**1. Organization:** .....

.....

**2. Surname:** ..... **3. First Name (s):** .....

**4. Position / Title:** .....

**5. Date of birth:** ..... **6. Citizenship:** .....

**7. Passport No.:** ..... **Issued by:** .....

**8. Sex:**            **F e m a l e**                      **M a l e**

**9. NGO's address:** .....

.....

**Phone:** ..... **Fax:** .....

**E-Mail:** .....

**Date:** ..... **Signature:** .....

NOTE: You are kindly requested to send this registration form duly completed to

OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights  
Aleje Ujazdowskie 19, 00-557 Warsaw, POLAND  
Fax: (48-22) 520 06 03                      Phone: (48-22) 520 06 00  
E-mail: [Anna.Sierant@odihr.pl](mailto:Anna.Sierant@odihr.pl)

by Wednesday, 6 April 2005

## HOTELS IN VEINNA

Hotel	Address		Tel/Fax (+43-1)
****			
<b>ROYAL</b>	Singerstraße 3	1010 Vienna	Tel: 515 68-96 Fax: 513 96 98
<b>KAISERHOF</b>	Frankenberggasse 10	1040 Vienna	Tel: 505 17 01-81 Fax: 505 88 75 88
<b>TIGRA</b>	Tiefer Graben 14	1010 Vienna	Tel: 533 96 41 Fax: 533 9645
<b>AMADEUS</b>	Wildpretmarkt 5	1010 Vienna	Tel: 533 87 38 Fax: 533 87 38/38
<b>NOVOTEL AIRPORT</b>			Tel: 701 07-2134 Fax: 707 32 39
***			
<b>WANDL</b>	Petersplatz 9	1010 Vienna	Tel: 534 550 Fax: 534 55 77
<b>CARLTON OPERA</b>	Schikanedergasse 4	1040 Vienna	Tel: 587 53 02-0 Fax: 581 25 11
<b>ASTRON Suite Hotel</b> „Mariahilf“	Mariahilferstraße 32-34	1070 Vienna	Tel: 521 72-0 Fax: 521 72-15
<b>ASTRON Suite Hotel</b> „Atterseehaus“	Mariahilferstraße 78	1070 Vienna	Tel: 524 56 00-0 Fax: 524 56 00-15
<b>DREI KRONEN</b>	Schleifmühlgaße 25	1040 Vienna	Tel: 587 32 89-0 Fax: 587 32 89-11
<b>AUSTRIA</b>	Wolfengasse 3	1010 Vienna	Tel: 515 23 Fax: 515 23-506
<b>KÄRNTNERHOF</b>	Grashofgasse 4	1011 Vienna	Tel: 512 19 23 Fax: 513 22 28/33
<b>POST</b>	Fleischmarkt 24	1010 Vienna	Tel: 515 83/0 Fax: 515 83/808
<b>SCHWEIZERHOF</b>	Bauernmarkt 22	1010 Vienna	Tel: 533 19 31 Fax: 533 02 14
<b>WIENER STAATSOPER</b>	Krugerstraße 11	1010 Vienna	Tel: 513 12 74 Fax: 513 12 74-15
<b>Pension NOSSEK</b>	Graben 17	1010 Vienna	Tel: 533 70 41 Fax: 535 36 46
<b>CORDIAL</b>	Kostlergasse 5	1060 Vienna	Tel: 0676 403 44 80 Fax: 587 43 72-88
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<b>RATHAUS</b>	Lange Gasse 13	1080 Vienna	Tel: 406 43 02 Fax: 408 42 72