

# Reporting by the Chair of the Human Dimension Committee

Ambassador Thomas Greminger  
Permanent Council, 22 September 2011



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

# Mandate



Decision no. 17/06, Improvement of the consultative process:

- Discuss human dimension issues, including implementation of the commitments
- Support the preparation of the HDIM and other human dimension meetings
- Consider cross-dimensional issues with a particular connection to the human dimension, when so requested by the Chairmanship in consultation with participating States
- Discuss recommendations to the Permanent Council on the programme of work, including actions to follow up on recommendations made at the human dimension meetings;

# Main objectives for 2011 HDC

Pragmatic, outcome-oriented approach, in close cooperation with the Lithuanian Chairmanship that aims to:

- Enhance trust and confidence,
- Produce concrete outcomes,
- Allocate time and resources efficiently to achieve the necessary formal decisions.

# Work programme

- Builds on the Astana Declaration, incl. many issues that have been taken up by participating States in the Corfu Process and during the preparations for the Astana Summit (draft framework for action).
- Balanced work programme responding to interests and issues of concern of the different participating States in the OSCE.
- Topics where a consensus seems achievable by the end of the year as well as topics where this is realistically not possible aiming at creating a working environment which allows a constructive dialogue on difficult issues.

# HDC in 2011

## **Structured agenda**

- (1) Main topic,
- (2) Preparation of and follow-up to Human Dimension events,
- (3) Voluntary reports by the participating States on implementation of commitments and follow-up to recommendations,
- (4) Briefing by OSCE executive structures
- (5) Any other business

# Main developments in the HDC in 2011

- Monthly substantial and structured meetings
- Constructive exchanges without finger pointing
- Outstanding speakers to introduce the main topics
  - Ambassador Lenarcic, director ODIHR
  - Roland Bless, principal advisor of the OSCE RFOM
  - Maria Grazia Giammarinaro, OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
  - Serghei Ostaf, Member of the OSCE/ODIHR Panel of Experts on Freedom of Assembly
  - Mr. Michael Head former Chair of ECRI on hate crime
- Numerous voluntary reports by participating States

# (1) Main topic

- Trafficking in Human Beings,
- Roma and Sinti,
- Media freedom,
- Freedom of assembly and association,
- Democratic elections and electoral observation,
- Freedom of movement,
- Prevention of hate crimes



## (2) Preparation of and follow up to Human Dimension events



### 2011 HD EVENTS:

- PREPARATION AND FOLLOW UP:
  - SHDM: National Human Rights Institutions
  - HD Seminar: The Role of Political Parties in the Political Process
  - Special Thematic Event on IDPs and Refugees
  - Conference on Safety of Journalists in the OSCE Region
  
- PREPARATION:
  - HDIM
  - SHDM: Promotion of Pluralism in the New Media
  - SHDM: Prevention of Racism, Xenophobia and Hate Crimes through Educational and Awareness Raising Measures
  - 3 CiO conferences on tolerance and non-discrimination
    1. Confronting Anti-Semitism in Public Discourse
    2. Preventing and Responding to Hate Crimes against Christians
    3. Intolerance and discrimination against Muslims,

# (3) Voluntary reports by participating States

- 18 voluntary report by participating States
  - Elections - follow-up given to ODIHR's reports:
    - Austria
    - Finland
    - Moldova
    - Netherlands
    - Switzerland
  - Commitments related to equality, tolerance, and non-discrimination
    - Canada: Multiculturalism and diversity
    - Croatia: Reform of penal code and hate crime
    - Croatia: Hate crime
    - United Kingdom: Combating hate crime
    - Poland: Prevention of hate crimes,
    - Turkey: Tolerance and non-discrimination (victims of holocaust)
  - Best practices and implementation of commitments:
    - Germany: Freedom of assembly
    - USA: Combat trafficking in persons
    - USA: Freedom of assembly
    - Georgia: Freedom of the media
    - Ukraine: Public information (legislation)
    - Serbia: National human rights institution
    - Switzerland: Implementation of UN Resolution 1325



## (4) Briefing by OSCE executive structures

- ODIHR experts presentations on:
  - Political party legislation
  - National human rights institutions
  - Internally displaced persons and refugees
  - Kiev recommendations on judicial independence
  - Combating torture
- OSCE field missions on their Human dimension work:
  - OSCE in Belgrade on IDPs and Refugees
  - OSCE in Dushanbe on Human Rights Dialogue in Tajikistan,
  - OSCE in Bishkek on combating torture
- CPC on IDPs and refugees
- Special representative on gender



# Next months ahead (1)



- Main topics:
  - Reform of Human Dimension events
  - Freedom of Religion or Belief
  - Conclusions and follow-up
- Briefing by OSCE executive structures:
  - Child-trafficking
  - Issues related to national minorities
  - Gender issues
  - Tolerance and non-discrimination

# Next months ahead (2)



- Preparation of MC decisions
  - Human Dimension
    - National human rights institutions
    - Safety of journalists
    - Pluralism in the new media
    - Tolerance and non discrimination in public discourse.
  - Cross Dimensional
    - IDP/Refugees/Statelessness
    - Countering trafficking in human beings.
- Process of the modernization of HD events

## What has worked...

- Structured agenda
- Substantial exchanges on main topics
- Instructive voluntary reporting
- Constructive spirit

## What can be improved...

- Link HD events / HDC
- Link PC / HDC
- More interactive dialogue
- Self critical acknowledgement of shortcomings and joint efforts to better implement the HD commitments