

COMPILATION OF WRITTEN RECOMMENDATIONS

(Covering Working Sessions 16-17)

This compilation contains recommendations submitted to the HDIM Documentation Centre in accordance with the established procedure. The compilation is organized by Working Sessions and by what was submitted by Delegations / International Organizations / NGOs to participating States and, separately, to OSCE Institutions / Field Missions or other International Organizations. Recommendations are compiled in original language.

Please note that the deadline for submitting Recommendations to the HDIM Documentation Centre is Thursday, 9 October 2008.

Thursday, 9 October 2008

WORKING SESSION 16: Discussion of human dimension activities (with special emphasis on project work)

Recommendations to participating States:

Canada

calls on all participating States

- to improve Donor harmonization.
- to establish a Master Arrangement with the OSCE and the ODIHR for the provision of their extra-budgetary funding.

We respectfully urge all host States concerned

- to remove all obstructions to the implementation of these important projects and to speed up project approval.

European Union

- Priority should be given to programme activities which focus on those areas which are subject to serious and persistent breaches of commitments in specific participating states.
- We should be open to further improvements in election monitoring. In our view improvements should build upon what has already been achieved, for example by strengthening the role of long term observers, or improving the follow-up to the recommendations made by ODIHR's election observation missions, or continuing to pursue diversity of election observers through support of the diversification fund. It is important that the Copenhagen commitments on election monitoring are honoured to the full in the spirit as much as in the letter by all participating states.

Recommendations to the OSCE:

European Union

- The EU wishes to stress the importance it attaches to complementarity between the competences of the ODIHR and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, and would like to see harmonious co-operation on the basis of the 1997 memorandum.
- Human rights are indivisible and interdependent and there should be no thematic hierarchy in the OSCE tolerance agenda – all forms of intolerance and discrimination should be addressed, regardless of whether based on grounds such as ethnic origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation and gender identity, age or disability.
- the EU encourages OSCE institutions and field missions to give priority to the development of programmes and projects aimed at enhancing the protection of human rights defenders and helping to build their capacity.
- Referring to the need for coherence and to avoid duplication in the work of international organisations, the EU welcomes the existing cooperation between the OSCE and the Council of Europe. The EU encourages both organisations to enhance and strengthen their cooperation in all fields possible, especially regarding the human dimension activities.

Freedom House

- We therefore urge the ODIHR Human Rights Defenders Focal Point to develop concrete activities to support human rights defenders rather than simply carry on the projects that predated the Focal Point's creation.
- the increased attention of the ODIHR to Central Asia would be absolutely justified. However, this attention does not necessarily mean a plethora of projects, for it must be remembered that the situation in the region has not improved since the OSCE has began the implementation of projects in the region. Rather a dialog and a clear voice on shortcomings is required, and this is what we expect from the OSCE.”

Thursday, 9 October 2008

WORKING SESSION 17: Democratic institutions

Recommendations to participating States:

Legal Information Centre for Human Rights (Tallinn, Estonia)

- We expect that Estonia as an EU and NATO member-state will promptly achieve great success in promotion of justice and integration in the society.

Latvian Human Rights Committee

To Latvia

- To simplify naturalization, especially the language requirements for the elderly people.
- To grant citizenship at birth, to those children born to non-citizen parents, whose parents do not explicitly refuse from it.
- To grant voting rights in local and European elections to non-citizens of Latvia.
- To review the list of professions which are not available for non-citizens.

Freedom house

To Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Uzbekistan.

- We call on these States to create conditions to make the holding of genuinely democratic elections possible. This is not only a matter of technical improvements or election legislation, but also relates to improving compliance with international standards in areas already mentioned: freedoms of peaceful assembly, association, and expression.

To Kazakhstan

- to also bring its election legislation in line with international standards.
- We urge the States where declines have been found to get familiar with our reports and to address the identified shortcomings.

Civic Campaign "For Freedom"

To Belarus

- гарантировать включение хотя бы по одному представителю от оппозиции во все избирательные комиссии;
- обеспечение реальной возможности для всех кандидатов вести агитационную кампанию;
- проводить подсчет голосов избирателей в строгом соответствии с избирательным Кодексом;
- обеспечить наблюдателям реальную возможность обозревать процедуру подсчета голосов.

USA

- We applaud the agreement reached by Bosnian leaders earlier this year that changed the electoral law to ensure that 1991 residents of Srebrenica would have the option to vote in Srebrenica municipality, and thousands did so in the October 5 municipal elections.
- It is important that Macedonia implement ODIHR's recommendations and put safeguards in place to ensure that future elections are conducted in a manner fully consistent with OSCE commitments.
- We call on the Government of Kyrgyzstan take steps to increase political pluralism and build institutions that are more reflective of democratic values.

To Armenia and Georgia

- We encourage both countries to continue working with ODIHR and other experts to improve their election process well in advance of the next election.

Recommendations to the OSCE:

Norway

- The inclusion of election monitors from various Parliamentary Assemblies is both useful and welcome, but ODIHR, with its mandate to observe “before, during and after” the elections is by far the most important actor in election observation. Accordingly, ODIHR must play a leading and coordinating role in all election observation missions in the OSCE region.

European Union

- the EU welcomes the existing cooperation between the OSCE and the Council of Europe. The EU encourages both organizations to enhance and strengthen their cooperation in all fields possible, especially regarding democratic institutions.

Freedom house

- We also urge the OSCE to devote more time to the discussions of the functioning of democratic institutions including convening an expert seminar on this issue.

Civic Campaign "For Freedom"

мы предлагаем БДИПЧ ОБСЕ

- продолжить работу с правительством Беларуси, представителями неправительственных организаций и политических партий направленную на изменение избирательного законодательства в Республике Беларусь.
А именно:
 - ликвидации института досрочного голосования.
 - включение представителей оппозиции во все участковые и окружные избирательные комиссии.
- позволить независимым наблюдателям находиться в непосредственной близости к месту подсчёта избирательных бюллетеней. _