



ODIHR e-newsletter

OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

May/June 2008

Current election missions

[Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia](#)

Upcoming events

Supplementary Human Dimension Implementation Meeting on Sustainable Policies for Roma and Sinti Integration, Vienna, 10-12 July

[Conference website](#)

Latest reports

[Statement on the 15 June re-runs of the 1 June 2008 parliamentary elections in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia](#)

[Statement of preliminary findings and conclusions on the 1 June 2008 parliamentary elections in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia](#)

[Final report on the 19 February 2008 presidential election in Armenia](#)

[Statement of preliminary findings and conclusions on the 21 May 2008 parliamentary elections in Georgia](#)

[Statement of preliminary findings and conclusions on the 11 May 2008 early parliamentary elections in Serbia](#)

[Final report on the 25 November 2007 parliamentary elections in Croatia](#)

[Closing remarks by Ambassador Christian Strohal at the SHDM on National Institutions against Discrimination in Combating Racism and Xenophobia, Vienna, 30 May](#)

[Opening remarks by Ambassador Christian Strohal at the SDHM on National Institutions against Discrimination in Combating Racism and Xenophobia, Vienna, 29 May](#)

ODIHR Director gives final address to OSCE Permanent Council



In his last speech to the OSCE Permanent Council as ODIHR Director, Ambassador Christian Strohal highlighted continuing challenges to human rights.

"In the face of these persistent and new challenges, and the uneven response to them, some want to conclude that the OSCE is in a crisis," he said.

"I believe that the opposite is the case. In times when some participating States fail to meet their commitments, it is the OSCE and its institutions like the ODIHR which are best suited to identify shortcomings and offer assistance to states in remedying lack of implementation."

[Read the full speech](#)

Ambassador Strohal, of Austria, leaves the ODIHR on 30 June after more than five years as Director. He will be replaced by Ambassador Janez Lenarcic of Slovenia from 1 July.

[Read press release](#)

War crimes trials in the former Yugoslavia

On 27 May, ODIHR Director Ambassador Strohal signed an agreement with the President of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) Fausto Pocar on enhancing support for the national justice authorities in the former Yugoslavia. This is part of an ODIHR project, with contributions from OSCE field operations in South Eastern Europe, that aims to assist the ICTY in preserving its legacy and contributing to a better handling of war crimes cases by domestic jurisdictions of the former Yugoslavia.

On 26 May, ODIHR met with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), which is a partner of the project, and discussed long-term co-operation on supporting domestic jurisdictions prosecute war crimes cases by assisting in the transfer of expert knowledge from the ICTY to local officials.

[More](#)

Armenia: freedom of assembly

ODIHR and the Council of Europe's Venice Commission have welcomed changes to Armenia's legislation on assemblies. The latest changes follow a joint ODIHR/Venice Commission review of the 17 March 2008 amendments to the Law on Conducting Meetings, Assemblies, Rallies and Demonstrations, which highlighted serious concerns about new restrictions.

[More](#)

ODIHR has also released its final election observation mission report on

[Opening remarks by Ambassador Christian Strohal at the launch of the Handbook on the Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Armed Forces Personnel, Vienna, 28 May](#)

[Speech by Ambassador Christian Strohal at the Alliance Against Trafficking in Persons Conference, Vienna, 26-27 May](#)

[Documents from the Human Dimension Seminar on Constitutional Justice, Warsaw, 14-16 May](#)

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Russian version

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the 19 February parliamentary elections.

[Read the report](#)

Turkmenistan: workshop on lawmaking

The first of a series of workshops on legal reform took place in Ashgabad from 14-15 May, jointly organized by ODIHR, the OSCE Centre in Ashgabad and the National Institute for Democracy and Human Rights of Turkmenistan.



[More](#)

Events on hate crime

On 16-17 June in Helsinki, ODIHR hosted an expert-level meeting with nominated National Points of Contact on Combating Hate Crimes from the OSCE participating States. The meeting was aimed at further enhancing co-operation between ODIHR and the National Points of Contact, who are responsible for providing ODIHR with information on hate crimes. Approximately, 50 participants from across the OSCE region took part. The meeting was preceded by an NGO roundtable, to provide input from civil society to the National Points of Contact.

[More information](#)

ODIHR also held an introductory training seminar for civil society on preventing and responding to hate crime in Warsaw from 31 May to 2 June.

Meeting on national anti-discrimination institutions

A Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on *The Role of National Institutions against Discrimination in Combating Racism and Xenophobia with Special Focus on Persons belonging to National Minorities and Migrants* was held in Vienna, 29-30 May.

[Conference website](#)

US launch of Toledo Guiding Principles

ODIHR presented its *Toledo Guiding Principles on Teaching about Religions and Beliefs in Public Schools* at a symposium in Washington DC on 23 May jointly organized by the Freedom Forum's First Amendment Center and the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development.

Participants discussed how the Guidelines could be implemented in the US context.

[Download the Toledo Guiding Principles](#)

New publications and translations

Recent publications include a handbook to promote respect for human rights in the armed forces, which covers a range of issues from bullying of conscripts to military justice systems, as well as presenting an overview of legislation, policies and mechanisms to protect the rights of armed forces personnel.

Also published this month is a report on compensation for victims of

trafficking, which provides an overview of compensation through criminal, civil and labour procedures, as well as state compensation mechanisms, in eight OSCE states.



- Handbook on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Armed Forces Personnel ([English](#))
- Compensation for Trafficked and Exploited Persons in the OSCE Region ([English](#))
- Trial Monitoring: A Reference Manual for Practitioners ([English](#))
- ODIHR Annual Report 2007 ([English](#))
- Legislative Assistance factsheet ([English](#))
- OSCE Human Dimension Commitments: Thematic Compilation ([Arabic](#))
- OSCE Human Dimension Commitments: Chronological Compilation ([Arabic](#))

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