



Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting

COMBATING RACISM, INTOLERANCE AND DISCRIMINATION IN SOCIETY THROUGH SPORT

**19-20 April 2012
Hofburg, Vienna**

ANNOTATED AGENDA

Racism, intolerance and discrimination in society continue to be matters of concern in the OSCE region. Individuals are targeted and properties are vandalized as a result of racist and/or xenophobic sentiments. Such acts jeopardize the safety of victim communities and may impact the stability of societies. Acts of intolerance and discrimination also affect the relationships between different communities and present a threat to cohesive societies. Therefore, prevention and adequate responses to counter all forms of violence, racism, intolerance and discrimination must remain a priority for OSCE.

OSCE participating States have repeatedly expressed their condemnation of hate crimes, racism, discrimination and other acts of intolerance and have established a robust normative framework to prevent and combat these phenomena. Several Ministerial and Permanent Council Decisions have acknowledged that the primary responsibility for prevention and response lies with OSCE participating States.¹ The 2007 Madrid Ministerial Council Decision on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination encourages participating States: to establish national institutions or specialized bodies to combat intolerance and discrimination; to develop and implement national strategies and action plans in this field; and to develop educational programmes in order to raise awareness among youth of the value of mutual respect and understanding.²

A fundamental pillar of society, sport is often characterized by its universal accessibility and ability to unify individuals from diverse backgrounds. Millions throughout the OSCE area are engaged in this activity, both as spectators and participants, at youth, amateur and professional levels. Given its significance and broad appeal, sport has the capacity to be an important vehicle for promoting social cohesion, mutual understanding and tolerance, both within and across national borders. Recent initiatives by national and international NGOs have highlighted how sporting events can serve as a mechanism to build confidence and mutual understanding and promote tolerance and respect between different communities. Furthermore, they serve to highlight the important role of sport in promoting integration, equality and tolerance in society at large. In order to fully develop and further expand on the potential of sport to serve as a vehicle and play a potential role to combat racism, intolerance and discrimination, it is also necessary to examine and address the existence of these phenomena within

¹ These include OSCE Ministerial Council Decisions adopted in Porto (2002), Maastricht (2003), Sofia (2004), Ljubljana (2005), Brussels (2006) and Athens (2009).

² Permanent Council Decision 621 and Ministerial Council Decision No. 10/7, para. 10.

sport itself. This Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting (SHDM) will provide a platform for exchanges among different stakeholders and serve as an opportunity for OSCE participating States to share and exchange best practices and strategies on how to develop measures aimed at promoting diversity, integration and equality of all.

In particular, this SHDM will:

- Explore contemporary manifestations of racism, intolerance and discrimination in society;
- Identify effective strategies to prevent and respond to hate crimes, racist incidents, intolerance and discrimination in society including in sports; and
- Present best practices from governments, international organizations and civil society to prevent and combat racism, intolerance and discrimination in society through sport with a view to promoting equality and integration.

19 April 2012

15:00 - 16:00 Opening Session

**16:00 - 18:00 SESSION I: Racism, Intolerance and Discrimination:
Contemporary Manifestations and Challenges**

Over the past twenty years, there have been a number of positive developments in combating racism, intolerance and discrimination throughout the OSCE area. Participating States have implemented policies and strategies aimed at combatting hate crimes and manifestations of racism, intolerance and discrimination. Despite these developments, serious challenges remain. The impact of racism on society is exacerbated by the current global economic crisis as well as by the intolerant discourse and scapegoating of minorities, which makes the task of tackling racism, intolerance and discrimination in society more difficult.

Despite its potential to play a positive role, sport itself is not immune to the manifestations of racism, intolerance and discrimination. Mass sporting events have been manipulated by neo-Nazi and ultra-nationalist groups to spread racial prejudice and xenophobia. In a number of high profile incidents in football, manifestations of anti-Semitism, intolerance against Muslims and Roma and Sinti and other forms of intolerance have been reported increasingly, and clashes have involved physical attacks and even death of spectators.

The purpose of this session is to provide an overview of the current manifestations of racism, intolerance and discrimination throughout the OSCE area.

Questions for discussion include:

- What are the current manifestations of racism, intolerance and discrimination in the OSCE area? What is their impact and implications for security in society?
- What new and existing challenges in preventing and combating racism exist for state actors, civil society, national human rights institutions (NHRIs), IGOs and INGOs ?

- Are there comparative differences between the prevalence of manifestations of racism, discrimination and intolerance in different sporting activities?

20 April 2012

10:00-12:00 Session II: Monitoring, Preventing and Responding to Hate Crimes, Racist Incidents, Intolerance and Discrimination, including in Sports

Hate crimes and incidents, have been documented in ODIHR's annual report *Hate Crimes in the OSCE Region – Incidents and Responses*. Violent incidents have been observed at youth, amateur and professional sporting events. Mass sporting events, such as the upcoming Union of European Football Association's (UEFA) European Football Championships and the Olympic Games later this year, will be attended and watched by a large number of supporters. Smaller scale domestic league tournaments and sporting events shall also garner substantial support from fans throughout the OSCE area. Unfortunately, these events are not immune to manifestations of racism and xenophobia.

The investigation and prosecution of hate crimes and violent incidents and the need to combat organized hate groups who incite or use violence at sporting events present particular challenges for OSCE participating States. A human rights approach to the regulation of these groups requires respecting freedom of expression and association as defined under international and national law.

This session will explore different strategies available to participating States for the effective prevention of and response to hate crimes, violence, racism, intolerance and discrimination in society, including in sports. In addition to the role of different stakeholders, including NHRIs, national and international sporting associations, attention will be paid to the role law enforcement bodies play in monitoring and responding to racist incidents and violence. Finally, an emphasis will be placed upon preventive strategies available to relevant stakeholders.

Questions for discussion include:

- What role do awareness-raising campaigns and public education have in preventing and combating hate crimes, racism, intolerance and discrimination, including in sports?
- What strategies and resources for prevention and response are available to law enforcement agencies involved in monitoring and prevention of hate crimes and violent incidents?
- What is the role of government agencies, NHRIs, civil society and other bodies in monitoring, preventing and combating hate crimes, racism, intolerance and discrimination, including in sports? What legislative measures should be undertaken to address racism, intolerance, discrimination, including in sports?
- In the lead up to major sporting events such as Euro 2012 and the Olympic Games, what strategies exist for different actors for the prevention of hate crimes, racist incidents and violence?
- What transnational strategies have been most effective in combating racism, intolerance and discrimination at international sporting events?

12:00 - 14:00 Lunch

14:00 - 16:00

Session III: Sporting Events as Confidence-Building Measures and the Role of Sport in the Promotion of Integration and Equality

Given the power of sport to bring individuals from diverse backgrounds together on a 'level playing field', it is understandable that it has been utilized in confidence- and peace-building efforts throughout the OSCE area. Sport programmes for youth in a number of OSCE participating States have been particularly effective in fostering understanding, tolerance and mutual respect for others, and as a means of combating discrimination, prejudices and stereotypes. Integration programmes involving sport and targeting migrants, asylum seekers and refugees have also met with success.

While hailed as an ideal vehicle for the promotion of social cohesion and tolerance, in practice, additional efforts need to be invested to achieve equality. The focus of the final working session is two-fold. Discussions will focus on strategies to enhance equality and integration both in and through sports. Participants are invited to share best practices which showcase sport as a medium for confronting racism, intolerance and discrimination, and facilitating inter-cultural understanding and integration. An emphasis will also be placed on the sharing of good practices which address individual and institutional discrimination in the field of sport with a view to achieving a more balanced representation of minority groups in order to promote equality for all. .

Questions for discussion include:

- What kind of sporting initiatives aimed at challenging racism, intolerance and discrimination exist in the OSCE area? What is the impact of these initiatives?
- How can OSCE participating States be supported in their efforts to design effective sporting initiatives which encourage inter-cultural understanding and integration among diverse communities, including asylum seekers, refugees and migrants?
- How can governments and sporting associations promote equal opportunity policies and practices in order to achieve a more balanced representation of minority groups and gender in sports at all levels?
- What legislative policies are needed to ensure that racism, intolerance and discrimination in society and sport are effectively eradicated?
- What initiatives and programmes have effectively contributed to the increased access of racial and ethnic minorities, including women in sport?
- How can upcoming domestic and international sporting events such as EURO 2012 and Olympic games be used to combat racism, intolerance and discrimination?

16:00-16:30 Break

16:30-17:30 Closing Session

Reports by the Moderators of the Working Sessions

17:30 Closing of the meeting