

Prague Document: extract concerning the Human Dimension (31 January 1992)

Caption: At its meeting in Prague of 30 and 31 January 1992, the Council of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) establishes the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR).

Source: Second Meeting of the Council, Prague 1992. Prague Document on Further Development of CSCE Institutions and Structures. [ON-LINE]. [s.l.]: Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, [05.08.2003]. 2PRAG92.e. Available on <http://www.osce.org/docs/english/1990-1999/mcs/2prag92e.pdf>.

Copyright: (c) OSCE

All photographs or documents on the OSCE website, unless otherwise stated, are the sole property of the Secretariat of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

Government authorities of the participating States may freely reproduce them for usage related to the OSCE.

Photographs may not be reproduced for resale purposes or mass publication without the express written consent from the Press and Public Information Section of the OSCE Secretariat.

URL: http://www.cvce.eu/obj/prague_document_extract_concerning_the_human_dimension_31_january_1992-en-b36d1a5f-6e41-4c68-b8d8-b293e1b6e6b9.html

Publication date: 21/10/2012

Prague Document on Further Development of CSCE Institutions and Structures (31 January 1992)

[...]

III

Human dimension

6. The Ministers agreed that monitoring and promoting progress in the human dimension remains a key function of the CSCE.

7. Issues related to the human dimension will therefore be considered by the Council or the Committee of Senior Officials whenever necessary.

8. In addition, meetings of a short duration may also be decided upon by the Committee of Senior Officials to address clearly defined issues. Results of such meetings will be submitted to the Council through the Committee of Senior Officials for consideration or decisions as required.

9. In order to extend practical co-operation among participating States in the human dimension, the Ministers decided to give additional functions to the Office for Free Elections which will henceforth be called the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

10. Under the general guidance of the CSO, the Office should, inter alia:

- organize a short CSCE meeting at the seat of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights to address implementation of CSCE human dimension commitments every year in which a follow-up meeting does not take place. The Helsinki Follow-up Meeting will work out the organizational modalities for such meetings;
- serve as an institutional framework for sharing and exchanging information on available technical assistance, expertise, and national and international programmes aimed at assisting the new democracies in their institution-building;
- facilitate contacts between those offering such resources and those wishing to make use of them;
- develop co-operation with the Council of Europe in order to make use of its database of such resources and services;
- establish contacts with non-governmental organizations active in the field of democratic institution-building, with a view to enabling interested participating States to make use of their extensive resources and expertise;
- facilitate co-operation in training and education in disciplines relevant to democratic institutions;
- organize meetings and seminars among all participating States on subjects related to the building and revitalization of democratic institutions, such as a short seminar on free media and, at an appropriate time, one on migration. These meetings and seminars will be held in Warsaw unless otherwise decided.

11. In order to avoid duplication of work specially in the fields enumerated above, the Ministers directed the Office to work closely with other institutions active in the field of democratic institution-building and human rights, particularly the Council of Europe and the European Commission for Democracy through Law.

12. The CSO will on an annual basis examine the need for meetings and seminars on the human dimension

and democratic institutions and will establish a work programme.

13. The Ministers requested the Helsinki Follow-up Meeting to further specify the task of the Warsaw Office and to decide how the human dimension activities of the CSCE may be further carried forward.

14. The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights is designated as the CSCE institution charged with the tasks in connection with expert and rapporteur missions according to the Document of the Moscow Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE.

15. The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights will be connected to the CSCE communications network

[...]