

*Ministers' Deputies*

## **Information document**

**CM/Inf(2010)10**    2 March 2010<sup>1</sup>

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### 11th meeting of the Co-ordination Group between the Council of Europe and the OSCE (Strasbourg, 1 March 2010)

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#### **Introduction**

The eleventh meeting of the Co-ordination Group set up in December 2004 between the Council of Europe and the OSCE took place on 1 March 2010 at the Palais de l'Europe in Strasbourg.

The list of participants is set out in Appendix 1.

The report drawn up at the close of the meeting appears in Appendix 2.

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<sup>1</sup> This document has been classified restricted at the date of issue; it will be declassified in accordance with Resolution Res(2001)6 on access to Council of Europe documents.

**Appendix 1****List of participants****COUNCIL OF EUROPE****Committee of Ministers****Chairmanship of the Ministers' Deputies:**

Amb. Paul WIDMER, *Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the Council of Europe*

**Bureau of the Ministers' Deputies:**

Mrs Evgenija ILIEVA, *Deputy to the Permanent Representative of "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" to the Council of Europe*

Amb. Daryal BATIBAY, *Permanent Representative of Turkey to the Council of Europe*

Mr Pedro JIMENEZ NACHER, *Deputy Permanent Representative of Spain to the Council of Europe*

Mr Jakob BRENČIČ, *Chargé d'Affaires a.i., Deputy to the Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the Council of Europe*

**Chairman of the Rapporteur Group on External Relations (GR-EXT):**

Amb. Joseph LICARI, *Permanent Representative of Malta to the Council of Europe*

**Council of Europe Focal Point****The protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities****The promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination**

Amb. Petter WILLE, *Permanent Representative of Norway to the Council of Europe*

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**Greece**

Mr Georgios DASKALOPOULOS, *Deputy to the Permanent Representative of Greece to the Council of Europe*

**Council of Europe Secretariat**

Mrs Gabriella BATTAINI-DRAGONI, *Director General of Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport*

Mr Christos GIAKOUMOPOULOS, *Director of Monitoring, Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs*

Mr Christophe POIREL, *Deputy to the Secretary to the Committee of Ministers*

Mr Denis BRIBOSIA, *Administrative officer, Secretariat of the Committee of Ministers*

Mr Stephanos STAVROS, *Executive Secretary of the European Commission against racism and intolerance (ECRI)*

Ms Anguelina PROKHOROVA, *Administrator, Directorate of External Relations*

Mr Lauri SIVONEN, *Thematic Coordinator, Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights*

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**OSCE****OSCE Troika****Kazakhstan (Chairman in Office)**

Amb. Kairat ABDRAKHMANOV, *Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the OSCE*

Mr Didar TEMENOV, *First Secretary of the Permanent Mission to the OSCE*

Mr Stanislav VASSILENKO, *First Secretary of the Embassy of Kazakhstan in Brussels*

**Lithuania (Incoming Chair)**

Amb. Renatas NORKUS, *Ambassador, Head of Delegation*

**Greece (Outgoing Chair)**

Mrs Evrykleia PANAGIOTOU, *Third Secretary, Permanent Representation of Greece to the OSCE*

**OSCE Focal Points****The protecting the rights of persons belonging to national minorities**

Amb. Brendan F. MORAN, *Director, Office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities*

**The promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination**

Ms Floriane HOHENBERG, *Head, Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department, OSCE/ODIHR*

**OSCE Secretariat**

Mr Oleksandr PAVLYUK, *Head of the External Co-operation Section*

Ms Biliana HRISTOVA, *External Co-operation Officer*

## Appendix 2

### Report by the Chairs

1. The eleventh meeting of the Co-ordination Group between the Council of Europe and the OSCE took place on 1 March 2010 at the Council of Europe headquarters in Strasbourg. The meeting was co-chaired by Ambassador Paul Widmer, Chairman of the Ministers' Deputies of the Council of Europe and Ambassador Kairat Abdrakhmanov, Chairman of the OSCE Permanent Council. The OSCE delegation included representatives of the OSCE Troika, of the two OSCE focal points and representatives of the Secretariat. The Council of Europe delegation included representatives of the Bureau of the Ministers' Deputies, the Council of Europe focal point and representatives of the Secretariat.

2. The Group reviewed the progress of co-operation between the two organisations in recent months concerning the protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities and the promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination, in the light of the joint reports presented by the Council of Europe and the OSCE focal points in the two areas.

3. Regarding the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, the Group welcomed the continuation of regular and pragmatic co-operation from exchanges of information to consultations and joint ventures, including the joint publication of the compilation of national minority standards in the Russian language. Particular emphasis was placed on co-operation in the context of their respective work on thematic issues, including the use of flags and other symbols of national minorities in the private and public sphere.

The Group also appreciated co-operation between the High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) and the Commissioner for Human Rights, who since 2008 had been examining closely the situation of increased Roma migration in Europe and the mounting difficulties experienced by some states to respond appropriately.

The Group encouraged both organisations to continue their constructive co-operation on minority-related issues, so as to address new challenges relating to minority protection. It was noted that both organisations intend to pursue their close co-operation in relation to monitoring activities, in particular by carrying out mutual consultations and regular exchanges of information on various issues.

4. In the field of promoting tolerance and non-discrimination, the Group welcomed the excellent sustained co-operation between the Council of Europe and the OSCE at a practical level which had included working-level meetings to explore the possibility for further synergies and joint endeavours.

The Group also valued the regular opportunities that ECRI and ODIHR provide for each other to offer feedback and input on tools, policy recommendations and reports in order to enable each organisation to contribute their expertise at an early stage in the development process. High-level events have also provided an important opportunity to send strong joint messages concerning the fight against intolerance and discrimination, such as the statement made on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on 21 March 2009.

With regard to the future, the Group noted that increased co-operation on legislative reviews and in the field of human rights education is envisaged as well as the joint development of new tools to build the knowledge and capacity of educators to teach on countering intolerance and discrimination against Muslims, as well as against Roma and Sinti. The Group also welcomed that ECRI and ODIHR would continue to co-operate closely on a range of issues, in particular with ODIHR following-up on ECRI country reports and ECRI taking into consideration the input of ODIHR when preparing country reports. Similarly, ODIHR and the Venice Commission will continue working closely on joint guidelines and reviews in the area of freedom of religion or belief, non-discrimination and fight against hate crime. ODIHR looks forward to participating in the conference on "Learning Democracy and Human Rights" to be held in Strasbourg on 15-16 April 2010 under the Swiss Chairmanship. The hope was expressed that the Council of Europe would be able to make a substantial contribution to OSCE's high-level conference on tolerance and non-discrimination (Astana, 29-30 June 2010) and that relevant OSCE institutions would be invited to the next Council of Europe Exchange on the religious dimension of intercultural dialogue (Ohrid, 13-14 September 2010).

5. The Group reaffirmed its commitment to continue to examine the co-operation between the two organisations and make proposals for concrete follow-up. It agreed on the necessity of sustaining the efforts that had been undertaken over the last years. The importance of a constant flow of information between the two organisations on their respective activities and projects was reaffirmed. This will allow to identify at early planning stages the potential areas for co-operation and to keep the risks of unnecessary duplication to a minimum, bearing in mind the differences between the two organisations regarding their membership, mandates and working methods.

6. In conclusion, the Group decided to meet in Vienna in the second half of 2010 to examine co-operation in areas of the fight against terrorism and the fight against trafficking in human beings. Finally, it was recalled that this report will be submitted to the member states of the Council of Europe and the participating States of the OSCE as soon as possible.