

Recommendation to the OSCE Mediterranean Seminar 2007

19 December 2007

The EHF submitted the following recommendation in writing to the OSCE's 2007 Mediterranean Seminar, held in Tel Aviv on 18-19 December 2007:

The European Humanist Federation draws the attention of participants to the 2007 Mediterranean Seminar to the fact that the promotion of mutual respect and understanding is inherent to the rule of law to which all OSCE member states are committed. However the transition from words to actual facts often leaves much to be desired and is hindered by the likely effect on established privileges as well as by a view of society which tends to exclude or, at best, ignore that part of the population which holds and practices values different from those of the prevailing religion. Given that one of the tenets of OSCE's mission is to uphold the rule of law, the European Humanist Federation recalls that in 1990 in Copenhagen member states declared :

The participating states are determined to support and advance those principles of justice which form the basis of the rule of law. They consider that the rule of law does not mean merely a formal legality which ensures regularity and consistency in the achievements and enforcement of democratic order, but justice based on the recognition and full acceptance of the supreme value of the human personality and guaranteed by institutions providing a framework for its fullest expression.

They solemnly declare that among those elements of justice which are essential to the full expression of the inherent dignity and of the equal treatment and inalienable rights of all human beings are the following:

...

all persons are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to the equal protection of the law. In this respect, the law will prohibit any discrimination and guarantee to all persons equal and effective protection against discrimination on any ground.

In the light of the above declaration, the European Humanist Federation strongly recommends that OSCE encourage participating states to honour the above commitment, in particular by checking that public radio and television do not discriminate against citizens and civil society associations that follow no religion or a religion different from the prevailing one.