



# European Humanist Federation

international non-profit association under Belgian law

## Fédération Humaniste Européenne

association internationale sans but lucratif de droit belge

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Mr Audronius Ažubalis  
OSCE Chairperson-in-Office

[By email to [Audronius.Azubalis@Irs.lt](mailto:Audronius.Azubalis@Irs.lt) ]

12 February 2011

Dear Mr Ažubalis

On behalf of the European Humanist Federation (EHF) I wish to congratulate you on your country's election as Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE and convey to you personally our best wishes for a successful year as Chairman of the Permanent Council.

EHF has for many years participated as an NGO in conferences and seminars organized by OSCE and ODIHR. We do so with great pleasure and interest as we share all basic values of the OSCE and seek to support the OSCE in its advocacy of democracy, rule of law and human rights, including the freedom of religion and beliefs.

Humanism is a non-religious lifestance based on reason, science and a commitment to human welfare and flourishing. The European Humanist Federation is principally concerned with representing humanism and secularism in the principal European institutions: our website at <http://www.humanistfederation.eu> has full details of all our activities – those relating to OSCE are at <http://tinyurl.com/6dj6723>.

Our aim is a democratic secular society based on the rule of law and free from any form of discrimination against individuals or groups based on religion or belief. Such discrimination takes many forms, sadly including serious persecution of some groups but including (so far as we are directly concerned) the privileges still enjoyed by churches in many European countries and an all-too-common failure to recognise the existence and the rights of the large and growing non-religious population - as when the word 'religions' is used as if it comprehended the entire relevant spectrum of beliefs.

In that spirit we offer our undivided cooperation in any areas where we might be of assistance. In particular, we should welcome a meeting to discuss how OSCE can help member states honour their commitments on equal treatment of believers and non-believers.

Yours sincerely

David Pollock  
President

Copy to Ambassador Renatas Norkus, Chairman of the OSCE Permanent Council  
[by email to [mission@lithuaniamission.at](mailto:mission@lithuaniamission.at) ]