



Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting

Lawmaking for Democratic Resilience

Vienna, 16-17 March 2026

AGENDA

Day 1 – 16 March 2026

14.00 – 15.00

OPENING SESSION

Opening remarks

H.E. Ambassador Raphael Nägeli, Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council

Maria Telalian, Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

Keynote address

Eirik Holmøyvik, Vice President of the Venice Commission, Council of Europe's Commission for Democracy through Law

Technical information

15.00 – 17.00

SESSION I: Safeguarding Democracies: Democratic Lawmaking and the Role of International Actors

Introducers:

Murray Hunt, University of Oxford, United Kingdom
Substitute Member of the Venice Commission

Nina Betetto, Member of the Venice Commission, Judge of the Constitutional Court of Slovenia

Kareen Jabre, Director of Programmes, Inter-Parliamentary Union

Moderator: Tea Jaliashvili, First Deputy Director, OSCE/ODIHR

OSCE participating States have committed to upholding the principles of democracy and the rule of law as essential foundations for lasting peace and stability. Good lawmaking, a cornerstone of functioning of democracy, contributes to enhancing public trust in democratic institutions. Conversely, democratic erosion increasingly occurs not through overtly unlawful actions, but through the weakening or circumvention of legislative procedures. Against this

backdrop, it is important that legislative processes strictly adhere to democratic principles and the rule of law, in line with international law and OSCE commitments.

This session will examine how robust democratic lawmaking practices, such as inclusive deliberation, meaningful consultations, evidence-based decision-making and sufficient parliamentary scrutiny, can function as early preventive mechanisms against democratic backsliding through law. It will also consider how international and regional actors can support the effective implementation of these standards at the national level.

[17.15 – 18.15 – Side-events]

Day 2 – 17 March 2026

[09.00 – 10.00 – Side events]

10.30 – 12.30

SESSION II: Civil Society and Independent Oversight in Defence of Democratic Lawmaking

Introducers:

Anu Juvoven, Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on Civil Society

Giorgi Burjanadze, Legal Advisor, Civil Society Foundation, Georgia

Vadim Vieru, Program Director, Promo-LEX Association
Moldova

Moderator: Julia Gebhard, Deputy Head, Democratization Department, OSCE/ODIHR

Lawmaking entails proper policy discussions, impact assessments and meaningful consultations both before and during the drafting of legislation. Civil society organizations and independent oversight bodies, such as national human rights institutions and ombuds institutions, play a vital and complementary role in strengthening democratic lawmaking by promoting inclusiveness, transparency, accountability and compliance with human rights throughout the legislative cycle.

This session will explore how these actors can contribute to participatory and oversight functions throughout the legislative cycle, including through advocacy, monitoring, post-legislative scrutiny and, where relevant, strategic litigation. It will also assess how restrictions on civic space and reduced access to information can undermine the effectiveness, legitimacy and resilience of lawmaking.

[12.30 – 14.30 – Light lunch]

[13.15 – 14.15 – Side events]

14.30 – 16.30

SESSION III: Judicial Review and Accountability in Democratic Lawmaking

Introducers:

Oleksandr Vodiannikov, Judge of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine

Róbert Dobrovodský, Public Defender of Rights (Ombudsperson) in Slovakia

Chinara Aidarbekova, Judge of the Constitutional Court of the Kyrgyz Republic

Moderator: Konstantine Vardzelashvili, Head Democratization Department, OSCE/ODIHR

Whenever preventive legislative safeguards and societal scrutiny have proven insufficient, courts may provide corrective remedies of last resort. This session will examine judicial review of legislation in contexts of democratic backsliding through law, including scrutiny of both the substance of legislation and, where relevant, the legislative process itself. Particular attention will be paid to challenges affecting effective judicial control, such as access to justice, standing, fast-tracked legislation and pressures on judicial independence. Participants will be invited to assess if and how judicial review can provide a corrective check on legislation and what factors may constrain its effectiveness in contexts of democratic backsliding through law.

16.30 – 17.30

CLOSING SESSION

Reports from the working sessions

Comments from the floor

Closing remarks:

Tea Jaliashvili, First Deputy Director, OSCE/ODIHR

Nicolas Plattner, Deputy Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the OSCE

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