

*A Multi-national Program of NGO Human Rights Cooperation
In the Framework of the Royaumont Process*

**Seminar on Minority Rights and Freedom of Religion in Balkan Countries
Herceg Novi, Montenegro 24-26 September 1999**

AGENDA

Friday 24. September

10.00 *Welcoming Statements;*
Slobodan Franovic, Chair, Montenegrin Helsinki Committee for Human Rights
Panayote Dimitras, Spokesperson, Greek Helsinki Monitor

Session 1: Legal Protection and Tolerance *Moderator: Sonja Biserko*
10.15 Presentation of IHF activities with regards to Freedom of Religion and Protection of Minorities
10.30 Presentations by IHF National Co-ordinators on existing protective national legislation and its application in practice in Central and South Eastern Europe.
11.30-12.00 Coffee
12.00-13.30 Plenary Discussion
13.30-15.00 Lunch

Session 2: Freedom of Religion *Moderator: Jan ter Laak*
15.00-18.30

- *The use of religion for political purposes*
- *Traditional churches versus new religions*
- *Registration issues, Freedom of Assembly*

Saturday 25 September

Session 2 (continued):
9.30-12.00 Freedom of Religion

Session 3: Mechanisms for protection of minority rights in Europe
12.15-13.15 Presentation by Alan Phillips, Director, Minority Rights Group; Vice President of the Advisory Commission of the CoE on the Framework Convention on National Minorities
Zdenka Machnyikova, Representative, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities
Boris Tsilevich, Member of Parliament of Latvia, and the CoE Parliamentary Assembly
13.15-14.30 Lunch

Session 4: Minority Rights *Moderator: Boris Tsilevich*
14.30-17.00

- *Citizenship*
- *Language/ Educational issues*
- *Right to organisation*

Sunday 26 September

Session 5:
9.30-12.30 Roma -The neglected minority of Europe. *Moderator: Josephine Verspaget*
Tatjana Peric: Roma rights in Central and Eastern Europe
-Education/Employment
12.30-13.30 Lunch

Session 6: How to improve regional co-operation on civil society level: The role of NGOs and churches in conflict prevention and minority protection in the framework of the Stability Pact.
13.30-15.00

- Plenary discussion
- Recommendations and Conclusion

