

Supplementary Humans Dimension Meeting ^{ENGLISH only}

Prevention of Racism, Xenophobia and Hate Crimes through Educational and Awareness-Raising Initiatives

10-11 November 2011, Vienna



Intervention by Bürgerbewegung Pax Europa

Session I

November 10, 2011

Intervention and Elaboration

Referring to the statement by the keynote speaker, Pax Europa once again asks for a clarification of the term "extremist speech." Who decides what constitutes "hate speech?"

One intervention even asked why "racist, extremist" NGOs – apparently referring to Pax Europa – were even allowed to participate at this meeting.

1. Labeling people and NGOs as "racist" without any elaboration just because an opinion voiced may be fundamentally different constitutes silencing of opinion and infringes on freedom of speech.
2. Pax Europa does not acknowledge the validity of the premises based on "racism". Arguments using "racism" employ invalid premises that are empirically untested and have no scientific backing.

Pax Europa firmly believes that cannot be the state's responsibility to regulate citizens' opinion, and in particular that speaking the documentable truth must never be punishable under the law.

Pax Europa therefore recommends that OSCE support the abolishing of all hate speech and blasphemy laws in Participating States as these laws are not compatible with a free society. We would like to remind the Participating States that free speech is the cornerstone of a liberal democracy, and that the OSCE Freedom of Media representative has repeatedly recommended limiting or abolishing such laws.