

**HDIM Warsaw 29.09.2005**

**Gert Weisskirchen, Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE on Combating Antisemitism**

- The mandate of the 3 personal representatives should be extended to allow them to plan and establish achievable goals and to schedule their activities. The personal representatives need to be able to work – following the holistic approach – independently and to direct their energies to where they are most needed.
- OSCE efforts to combat intolerance and discrimination continue to reflect the reality that antisemitism is a distinct phenomenon that requires a separate focus on antisemitism in OSCE programs. Much is needed: new mechanisms, legal measures and human rights strategies, to report publicly and to act on those findings.
- Coordination should advance not hinder action. It is important for the personal representatives to coordinate as appropriate to avoid duplication and learn from the activities of one another. At the same time it is essential to ensure that requests for coordination do not hinder the capacity of the personal representatives to respond to the specific needs of his or her mandate. While coordination is useful and appropriate in international institutions, there is a danger that this constitutes constraints on actions. To operate “as a team” could guarantee that the personal representatives would achieve even less and not more in their work for the OSCE.

As indicted in the OSCE Conferences – Vienna, Berlin, Paris, Brussels, Cordoba – antisemitism is a distinct phenomenon that needs to be addressed. It should not be treated as an issue to be balanced against others.

I understand my work to

- put a spotlight on antisemitism
- emphasize the importance of the issue
- engage political leaders directly when problems arise
- investigate incidents when needed
- advise member states on ways to monitor and enforce the laws
- make the promise of the past have a real visible implementation
- promote and oversee coordination

The member states have made commitments.

The OSCE institutions are available in order to be supportive so that the next steps can be taken – that is implementation. I understand my role as being one to help in this regard.