

Canadian Delegation to the  
Organization for Security & Cooperation  
in Europe



Délégation du Canada auprès de  
l'Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération  
en Europe

**DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE  
STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE REPORTS  
OF THE THREE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES FOR TOLERANCE  
560<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL  
23 JUNE 2005**

Mr. Chairman,

Canada thanks the Personal Representatives of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office on tolerance and non-discrimination, Ms. Crickely, Professor Weisskirchen and Ambassador Orhun, for reporting on the activities that they have undertaken during the first six months of their mandate.

The reports are a useful tool for discussing the means whereby the Personal Representatives may promote better coordination of participating States' efforts, aimed at the effective implementation of relevant Ministerial and Permanent Council Decisions, in the field of tolerance and non-discrimination.

Given their function as coordinators and communicators, Canada appreciates efforts by the Personal Representatives to align their work with the Chairmanship's chosen focus in 2005 on migration and integration. In helping to coordinate participating States' efforts, the Personal Representatives act as sources of information and advisors to the Chairman-in-Office. For this reason, it is important that the Personal Representatives have a close working relationship with the latter.

The three reports also highlight the fact that the Representatives have been active in performing outreach to the media and to civil society, as well as in acting as facilitators and moderator at experts' meetings. We welcome this role in raising awareness about participating States' commitments in the field of tolerance and non-discrimination.

Canada values the OSCE's efforts at coordination with the UN. The Personal Representatives have a responsibility for helping to ensure coherence and complementarity between the UN and the OSCE, in supporting international anti-discrimination norms, and at the level of visits, reporting and meetings.

The short-term work of coordination and communication that is the particular responsibility of the Personal Representatives should complement, where possible, ODIHR's and the field missions' project-oriented, multi-year activities. Although the ODIHR Anti-Discrimination Unit does not function as a secretariat for the Personal Representatives, we encourage the latter to work with the Unit in identifying particular areas of thematic focus. We are of the view that the core budget resources or personnel of ODIHR's Tolerance programme should not be used to

subsidize the work of the Personal Representatives, as that support, as agreed, must come from extra-budgetary sources.

We believe it would be useful if the Personal Representatives produced a single final report in time for the OSCE Ministerial in Ljubljana. This report could outline how their activities have enhanced the implementation by participating States of relevant commitments, and recommend the best means for the OSCE to further combat and prevent the specific forms of hatred and discrimination that the Representatives observed during their mandate.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.