

**OSCE CONFERENCE ON COMBATING DISCRIMINATION AND PROMOTING
MUTUAL RESPECT AND UNDERSTANDING
(7-8 June 2007, Bucharest)**

**Plenary Session 6: Addressing Racist, Xenophobic and Discriminatory Public Discourse
Spread Through, inter alia, the Media, Internet, Satellite TV, and Textbooks, While
Respecting Freedom of Expression**

RIGHT OF REPLY

Mr. Moderator,

We took note of the remarks made by a member of the UK delegation regarding Turkey. Like any criticism we shall take them seriously and as yet another sign of the UK's ongoing interest in developments in Turkey. What surprised us was the tone of the criticism which we also took note. We shall deploy bilateral channels to understand the facts which led the UK delegation to believe that the situation of religious minorities in Turkey is so much worse than any other participating State that it required an exceptionally prominent attention and particularly in the session on public discourse.

As for the specific incident that the UK delegate mentioned in her statement, I would refer her to the statement made by the head of Turkish delegation in Session 3 this morning. We thank the representative of the Becket Fund for commending that statement.

Thank you.