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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE HOLY SEE
TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY
AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

**STATEMENT BY MONSIGNOR MICHAEL W. BANACH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HOLY SEE,
AT THE 939th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

31 JANUARY 2013

RE: INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

Mister Chair,

Last Sunday, the world paused and celebrated *Yom Hashoah*, or Holocaust Remembrance Day. The responsibility of all nations to remember gains new strength as we celebrate the 68th anniversary of the liberation of the atrocious extermination camps.

Praying last January 27 with pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square, Pope Benedict XVI called attention to International Holocaust Remembrance Day. He said: "*The memory of this immense tragedy, which so harshly struck the Jewish people most of all, must represent for everyone a constant warning so that the horrors of the past are not repeated, hatred and racism are overcome and respect for the dignity of the human person is promoted.*"

Holocaust Remembrance Day invites us to reflect deeply on the significance of the *Shoah*. The victims from their graves, and the survivors through the vivid testimony of what they have suffered, have become a loud voice calling the attention of all of humanity. To remember this terrible experience is to become fully conscious of the salutary warning it entails: the spoiled seeds of anti-Judaism and anti-Semitism must never again be allowed to take root in any human heart.

The Holy See is profoundly and irrevocably committed to continue working in this sense.

Thank you, Mister Chair.