



Permanent Mission of Hungary to the OSCE

Statement of the Permanent Mission of Hungary to the OSCE
at the 939th Meeting of the Permanent Council
as delivered by Ambassador dr. Miklós Boros

Vienna, 31 January 2013

Mr. Chairperson,

Hungary fully aligns herself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union. This time I would like to call the attention of the Permanent Council to the statement of Hungarian Prime Minister Victor Orbán issued on the occasion of the International Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January 2013, and I quote:

“68 years ago today, the concentration camps at Auschwitz and Birkenau were liberated. On International Holocaust Remembrance Day, the Hungarian Government pays its respect to the victims. The painful anniversary compels every good-hearted Hungarian to pay their tribute.

Hungary is the home of the largest Jewish community in Central Europe, the flowering culture of which has always been an integral part of Hungarian culture, and remains so today. The 1944-45 tragedy of the Jewish people is thus also the tragedy of the Hungarian nation.

The Hungarian Government feels that it is its moral and political obligation to consistently confront the dictatorships of the 20th century and the atrocities they committed. We have introduced Holocaust Remembrance Day in every Hungarian school, established the House of Terror Museum, and it is almost ten years now since the Holocaust Memorial Center began operating in Budapest. 2014 is the 70th anniversary of the annihilation of the Hungarian Jews, in view of which the Hungarian Government has formed the Hungarian Holocaust 2014 Committee.

It is my firm belief that Hungary is a country in which people can never again suffer disadvantage or indignity because of their origin or faith. We shall protect every citizen of the country and know no compromise in this regard. We shall not tolerate and shall strongly condemn the stigmatising of minorities in any form, and every expression of anti-Semitism.” End of quote.

As far as the establishment of the Hungarian Holocaust 2014 Committee that was mentioned in the statement of the Prime Minister let me inform my Distinguished colleagues of the following: On 17 January this year the Hungarian Holocaust 2014



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Memorial Committee which is responsible for preparing the commemorative events marking the 70th anniversary of the deportation of Hungarian Jews held its founding session. Permanent delegates to the Committee include high ranking government officials as well as the President of the Federation of Jewish Communities in Hungary and the Ambassadors of the United States, Israel, Germany and Austria.

The chair of the Committee, Minister of State heading the Prime Minister's Office János Lázár, said among others in his opening address that the Government decided to set up the body because it regards it as particularly important to face the past, something which could not take place under the Communist regime. He added that the Government decided to set up the Committee at the initiative of Jewish organisations and would like its memorial events to be determined by civil organisations.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.