



447th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 447, Agenda item 9

**DECISION No. 541
AGENDA, TIMETABLE AND OTHER
ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES OF THE CONFERENCE ON
RACISM, XENOPHOBIA AND DISCRIMINATION**

(Vienna, 4 and 5 September 2003)

I. Agenda

1. Opening of the Conference
2. Opening plenary: Keynote interventions
3. Discussion in four sessions
4. Closing plenary: Summing up and closing of the Conference

II. Timetable and other organizational modalities

1. The Conference will open in Vienna on Thursday, 4 September 2003, at 9 a.m. It will close on Friday, 5 September 2003, at 1 p.m.
2. All plenary and working group sessions will be open.

Opening: Setting the context

- Why this meeting, why now?
- Define the problem of racism, xenophobia and discrimination, and its manifestations throughout the OSCE region;
- The role of governments in monitoring and responding to incidents.

Session 1: Legislative, institutional mechanisms and governmental action, including law enforcement

Topics may include, *inter alia*:

- Appropriate anti-discrimination legislation and national experience with criminal prosecution of violence;
- A discussion of hate crime legislation and good police practices;
- Law enforcement and the judiciary, including training;
- Government policies and practices at national, regional and local levels, including the examination of the role of independent specialized bodies.

Session 2: The Role of Governments and Civil Society in Promoting Tolerance

Topics may include, *inter alia*:

- The role of governmental bodies and NGOs in reporting, monitoring and combating racism, xenophobia, discrimination and intolerance;
- The effectiveness of dialogue as a mechanism to support understanding and mutual respect;
- Inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue and development of civic tolerance-building programmes.

Session 3: Education

Topics may include, *inter alia*:

- The role of education in promoting tolerance;
- Teacher-training programmes;
- Teaching of history;
- School curricula;
- Elimination of discrimination tendencies and prejudices in society.

Session 4: Information and awareness-raising: The Role of the Media in Conveying and Countering Prejudice

Topics may include, *inter alia*:

- Public opinion and role of the media, including new technologies (*inter alia*, the internet);

- Reporting and interpretation of developments in the OSCE area;
- Problems regarding the dissemination of hate speech and racist materials and ways to counteract this.

Closing: Conclusions

Conclusions and recommendations.

3. The plenary and working group sessions will take place in accordance with the work programme below.
4. Standard OSCE rules of procedure and working methods will be applied at the Conference.
5. Discussions will be interpreted from and into all six working languages of the OSCE.

WORK PROGRAMME

Working hours: 9 a.m.-12.15 p.m. and 2-5.30 p.m. (Thursday)
10 a.m.-1 p.m. (Friday)

	Thursday, 4 September 2003	Friday, 5 September 2003
Morning	Opening session Session 1	Session 4 Closing Plenary
Afternoon	Session 2 Session 3	