

Delegation of France

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF FRANCE AT THE
1045th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

19 March 2015

Right of reply to the statement by the Russian Federation

The Permanent Representation of France to the OSCE would like to return to the subject that was raised by the delegation of the Russian Federation at the Permanent Council on 19 March 2015 regarding the growth of racism, radicalism and neo-Nazism in the countries in the OSCE area (PC.DEL/393/15/Rev.1).

France is committed to combating all forms of intolerance and racism in their entirety. Regardless of whether they are anti-Semitic, anti-Muslim, anti-Christian, anti-Roma or homophobic, all acts of intolerance and discrimination are denounced by the public authorities in the strongest terms and prosecuted as necessary.

While acts of intolerance and racism continue unfortunately to be recorded, such behaviour patterns remain marginal and are condemned by the overwhelming majority of French people.

Neo-Nazism in France likewise remains a marginal phenomenon. The groups claiming to be neo-Nazi are few in number; there are a thousand individuals at most. There has not been a substantial neo-Nazi group in France since the disappearance of the French and European Nationalist Party (PNFE) in the late 1990s, its disappearance partly brought about by the crackdown on numerous acts of violence, including those of a terrorist nature.

Without wishing to downplay these disturbing phenomena and the dangers represented by the non-republican far right as a whole, it should be stressed that France has a powerful political and legal arsenal at its disposal that gives it the means to counter these excesses, an arsenal that it strives to continually adjust and strengthen, following the attacks in Paris.