



Hungary

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Statement by the Delegation of Hungary at the  
OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting,  
Warsaw, 24 September 2013

Working Session 2 Tolerance and Non-discrimination II – Review of the implementation of commitments on promotion of mutual respect and understanding

Madam Moderator,

Hungary fully aligns herself with the statement made earlier on behalf of the European Union.

Hungary is the home of the largest Jewish community in Central Europe. Their flourishing culture has been an integral part of our history and has also been living its renaissance in the past couple of years. The Jewish Summer Festival, for example, has been organised every year since 1998, with growing numbers of participants. Every year, more and more students arrive from Israel to Hungary for their university studies.

The Hungarian Government feels that it is its moral and political obligation to face the dictatorships of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, consistently pointing out the atrocities they have committed.

- We do raise public awareness – especially the young generation's – on what happened to the Jewish community in different phases of history.
- The Government declared 2012 as the *Raoul Wallenberg Year* and initiated numerous commemorative programmes in Hungary and, with the contribution of our embassies, in many countries abroad.
- We have introduced a Holocaust Remembrance Day in every Hungarian school and have established the House of Terror Museum.
- Almost ten years have passed since the Holocaust Memorial Centre has begun operating in Budapest.
- 2014 is the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the annihilation of the Hungarian Jews, in view of which the Hungarian Government has formed the Hungarian Holocaust 2014 Committee. Its members include the President of the Federation of the Jewish Communities in Hungary, as well as the Ambassadors of the United States, Israel, Germany and Austria.
- Hungary provides funding to the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation as part of the Holocaust Memorial Year and will also take part in the Foundation's International Committee.



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We also work in cooperation with ODIHR (Organization of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights – Warsaw) whose professional experience is very useful. ODIHR provided us with educational supplies (workbooks and digital materials) on the contribution the Jewish community made throughout the history of Hungary and also on combating anti-Semitism. The use of the teaching materials has officially been recommended and they were sent to all schools and educational institutions. These will be used on memorial days, school ceremonies and in history classes.

As a result of the cooperation between the ODIHR and the Ministry of Human Resources, these educational supplies will be presented on the occasion of the Conference on Jewish Life and Anti-Semitism in Contemporary Europe, to be held in Budapest, on 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> October this year.

Unfortunately, anti-Semitic incidents and crimes do happen also in Hungary – but the political leadership gives clear responses to them. The Hungarian Prime Minister declared *a policy of zero tolerance towards anti-Semitism*. Hungary condemns and rejects any form of hatred against the Hungarian Jewry, which has also been recognised by our international partners.

We go beyond condemning such actions and firmly step up against any form of crime, and take a stand against the mass events of neo-fascist and paramilitary organisations, having the firm intention to sell them off. The fourth amendment of our Fundamental Law is consolidating the legal basis of banning neo-fascist marches, paramilitary organisations or any phenomenon attempting to commit hate crimes. It claims that the exercise of one's right to free expression cannot be aimed at violating the dignity of any national, ethnic, racial or religious group.

The Hungarian Government and the Brussels Institute of the Action and Protection Foundation signed an agreement in June of this year in order to launch a new program to monitor anti-Semitism in accordance with methods proposed by OSCE, OECD and the EU. The Institute operates a free hotline for reporting anti-Semitic incidents and makes extensive reports (on a monthly basis) on the incidents and the reactions to them.

We have the firm intention to continue this policy. It is in this spirit, that the Tom Lantos Institution is organising a high level Conference on Jewish Life and Anti-Semitism in Contemporary Europe. The conference will address the most relevant issues and concerns of European Jewish communities today and will assess Jewish life from a political, sociological and cultural perspective while focusing emphatically on resurgent anti-Semitism and ways of combating it.

Hungary is running for the IHRA (International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance) Chairmanship. In our view the chairmanship in conjunction with the preparation period preceding it (which coincides with the Hungarian Holocaust 2014 Memorial Year) could contribute to the internal fight against the expressions of extremist and racist nature, and thus, metaphorically speaking – shall help in strengthening the reconciliation process in society.