

**Remarks by
Cristian Diaconescu, Secretary of State,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania**

- Foreign Minister Geoana was invited by the Dutch Chairmanship to address this conference as a keynote speaker. Political developments in Romania prevented him from sharing with us his thoughts on combating this most ancient manifestation of intolerance. On his behalf, allow me to voice his deep regret for not being in this conference room.
- Regardless of the bearer, the message of the Romanian Government remains the same: we stand firm in our commitment to fight discrimination and intolerance.
- We note with concern the escalation of antisemitic violence, as well as our common shortcoming in identifying means to adequately address the issue, although zero tolerance towards antisemitism should be our guiding principle. Anti-Semitism is harmful to our societies and endangers basic human values.
- Assuming the past, drawing the necessary lessons and carefully considering the experience of antisemitism, we may determine how best to respond to other forms of racism and intolerance.
- The persecution of the Jews during the Second World War is also a responsibility of my Government. It is deplorable that the Holocaust has been a state policy, promoted by the same institutions and authorities mandated to protect their own citizens. Unfortunately, this policy also affected an important number of Jews in Romania. History must be known and assumed. We genuinely believe in this principle and we will act accordingly. There should be no ambiguity as to Romania's attitude towards manifestations of racism.
- My Government recently restated that, unfortunately, the systematic action of extermination through deportations to concentration camps or through executions affected the destiny of an important part of the Romanian Jews.
- The leaders of 1940-1944, representing the Romanian State, proved themselves guilty of serious war crimes, pogroms, deportations to Transdnestria, mass displacements of important parts of the Jewish population of Romania to the territories occupied and controlled by the Romanian army, using discrimination and extermination methods belonging to the sinister mechanism of the Holocaust.
- Legislation enacted in 2002 bans public denial of the Holocaust, condemns the actions of Fascist, Nazi, and xenophobic nature and it also bans the erection of public monuments recalling war criminals.
- Monuments commemorating the Holocaust victims have been erected; the Holocaust phenomenon is studied in schools, and the National Archives allow unconditioned access to the researchers studying the Holocaust in Romania and neighboring territories.
- By assuming the share of responsibility for the victims of the Holocaust of the Romanian State of half a century ago, in which the leaders of Romania participated, Romania understands to contribute to clarifying some dramatic moments in her national history.