

The OSCE Secretariat bears no responsibility for the content of this document and circulates it without altering its content. The distribution by OSCE Conference Services of this document is without prejudice to OSCE decisions, as set out in documents agreed by OSCE participating States.

PC.DEL/91/22
28 January 2022

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

Delegation of Belgium

**STATEMENT BY
AMBASSADOR DIDIER NAGANT DE DEUXCHAISNES,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM TO THE
OSCE, AT THE 1352nd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

27 January 2022

On the occasion of International Holocaust Remembrance Day

Mr. Chairperson,

Belgium aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union and, in view of the importance of the occasion, wishes to add a few words in a national capacity.

Belgium is an active member of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance and continues to engage actively in the fight against anti-Semitism.

As the last survivors and direct witnesses of the Shoah and Nazi persecution disappear, the upholding of the duty of memory and the teaching of history become even more crucial. Future generations cannot be left in ignorance of the monstrous events that took place on our continent just over 70 years ago.

The tendency to minimize, distort and rewrite historical facts opens the door to an unacceptable trivialization of the most sinister period in our past. Fighting against revisionism and in favour of respect for memory and truth is a continuous collective struggle. In that regard, Belgium is co-sponsoring the United Nations resolution on Holocaust denial.

It attaches particular importance to education, preservation, commemoration and historical research measures, such as those undertaken, for example at the Kazerne Dossin memorial, a museum and documentation centre on the Holocaust and human rights.

From June 2021 to June 2022, Belgium holds the Chairmanship of the International Commission of the Arolsen Archives, the most important archive and documentation centre on missing persons, relating to the 17.5 million victims of persecution by the Nazi regime.

In order to maintain the memory and reforge the links with the descendants of the persecuted and missing persons, Belgium has decided to join the #Stolen Memory campaign by the Arolsen Archives, a mobile exhibition showing unclaimed personal belongings alongside short biographies of the victims. This campaign has already enabled 600 families to identify relatives who had disappeared without a trace and hence to keep their memory alive.