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DECISION No. 606
AGENDA, TIMETABLE AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES OF THE OSCE MEETING ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RACIST, XENOPHOBIC AND ANTI-SEMITIC PROPAGANDA ON THE INTERNET AND HATE CRIMES

(Paris, 16 and 17 June 2004)

I. Agenda

1.   Opening of the Meeting

2.   Opening plenary: Keynote interventions

3.   Discussions in four working sessions

4.   Closing plenary: Summing up and closing of the Meeting

II. Timetable and Other Organizational Modalities

1.   The Meeting will open in Paris on Wednesday, 16 June 2004. It will close on Thursday, 17 June 2004. The Government of France will host the Meeting at the Paris International Conference Centre of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

2.   All plenary and working sessions will be open.

3.   Standard OSCE rules of procedure and working methods will be applied at the Meeting.

4.   Discussions in the plenary and working sessions will be interpreted from and into all six working languages of the OSCE.

Opening: Presenting the Context

— Reiterating our commitment to combat hate crimes,

— Recalling the importance of enhancing the rights to freedom of expression and information,

— Underlining the importance of promoting tolerance, including through the media and the Internet,

— Stressing the necessity of initiating a broad debate on the possible link between racist, xenophobic and anti-Semitic propaganda on the Internet and hate crimes with the relevant actors, including governments, international organizations, civil society and the Internet industry, with a view to identifying possible best practices.

Session 1: Legislative Framework, Including Domestic and International Legislation Regarding Propaganda on the Internet and Hate Crimes

Topics may include, *inter alia*:

— National legislation and constitutional provisions regarding racist, xenophobic, and anti-Semitic propaganda on the Internet, regarding hate crimes, and regarding the link between Internet propaganda and hate crimes;

— Legal obligations of the different actors on the Internet, including the Internet Service Providers, web hosting services, backbone operators, e-commerce businesses, content providers, telephone, satellite and cable carriers and users;

— Factors that might limit the ability of governments, international organizations, NGOs, industry groups, etc., to address racist, xenophobic, and anti-Semitic propaganda on the Internet;

— An overview of existing initiatives by international organizations, such as *inter alia*, the United Nations, the OECD, the Council of Europe, the European Union, on the issue of racist, xenophobic and anti-Semitic propaganda on the Internet, hate crimes, and the potential relationship between them.

Session 2: The Nature and Extent of the Relationship Between Racist, Xenophobic and anti-Semitic Propaganda on the Internet and Hate Crimes

Topics may include, *inter alia*:

— An overview of existing public and private initiatives aimed at providing information and analysis based on sound methodology on the possible link between racist, xenophobic and anti-Semitic propaganda and hate crimes with a view to assessing the objectives and effect of these initiatives and, where necessary, their validity;

— An analysis of the contents of racist, xenophobic and anti-Semitic propaganda on the Internet and of the means used by their authors (sites, discussion forums, etc.);

— An assessment, based on reliable statistics, where such exist, of the effects, if any, of propaganda on the Internet on criminal behavior with respect to the commission of hate crimes.

Session 3: Public and Private Partnership in the Fight Against Racism, Xenophobia and Anti-Semitism on the Internet — Best Practices

Topics may include, *inter alia*:

— Co-operation between government agencies, international organizations, NGOs, religious associations, and industry groups on the issues of racist, xenophobic, and anti-Semitic propaganda on the Internet and hate crime;

— Assessment of appropriateness of government versus voluntary action in the fight against racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism on the Internet;

— Assessment of whether limitations on racist, xenophobic and anti-Semitic propaganda are effective in preventing hate crimes;

— Voluntary steps, if any, taken by the Internet industry in each participating State to address racist, xenophobic, and anti-Semitic propaganda on the Internet;

— Technical and other means used by organizations or networks to research and/or monitor racist, xenophobic and anti-Semitic propaganda and incitement to violence on the Internet.

Session 4: Promoting Tolerance On and Through the Internet — Best Practices to Educate Users and Heighten Public Awareness

Topics may include, *inter alia*:

— The need to promote broader access to diverse opinions on the Internet throughout the OSCE area as a crucial educational and awareness-raising tool to foster tolerance and combat hate crimes;

— Programmes designed for young people and educators to inform them about hate crimes and about the negative effects of racist, xenophobic, and anti-Semitic propaganda on the Internet, and to explore the potential relationship between such propaganda and hate crime;

— Training programmes for public authorities, especially for law enforcement officials, on hate crimes and on racist, xenophobic, and anti-Semitic propaganda on the Internet, and on exploring the potential relationship between them;

— Private initiatives (NGOs and/or industry groups) to educate users about hate crimes and about racist, xenophobic, and anti-Semitic propaganda on the Internet, and to explore the potential relationship between them.

Closing: Conclusions

Conclusions and recommendations.

5.	The plenary sessions will take place in accordance with the work programme below.

Work Programme

	Wednesday 16 June 2004	Thursday 17 June 2004
Morning	Opening session Session 1	Session 4 Closing plenary
Afternoon	Session 2 Session 3	