

OSCE CONFERENCE ENGLISH only
**ON COMBATING DISCRIMINATION AND PROMOTING MUTUAL RESPECT
AND UNDERSTANDING**

**Follow-up to the Cordoba Conference on Anti-Semitism and
Other Forms of Intolerance
(Bucharest, 7 and 8 June 2007)**

ANNOTATED AGENDA

The OSCE's commitments to promote tolerance and non-discrimination and freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, date back to the 1975 Helsinki Final Act. Since 2003, OSCE participating States have re-affirmed this commitment through the adoption of specific Ministerial Council Decisions. Such Decisions have committed OSCE participating States to further intensify their efforts to promote mutual respect and understanding and to combat violent manifestations of hatred and intolerance.

In order to provide continuous high level political attention to the OSCE's efforts to combat discrimination and promote mutual respect and understanding, conferences have been held in Vienna (2003); Berlin, Paris and Brussels (2004) and Cordoba (2005) in order to ensure effective implementation of OSCE commitments in the fields of tolerance and non-discrimination and freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief.

The OSCE Conference on Anti-Semitism and on Other Forms of Intolerance which was held in Cordoba, Spain on 7-8 June 2005 resulted in a final Declaration, elements of which were reflected in the 2005 Ljubljana Ministerial Council Decision. In their decision on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination, Ministers in Brussels decided to follow-up the Cordoba conference with a High-Level Conference in 2007 on Combating Discrimination and Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding in Bucharest.

The Conference will provide an opportunity to review steps taken to follow-up the 2005 Conference and assess the progress made since then. The 2007 Conference will also provide an important opportunity to review and assess implementation of existing commitments related to tolerance and non-discrimination, including the most recent commitments under the Brussels Ministerial Decision on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination. The Conference will also serve as an opportunity for participating States and civil society to present examples of best practices, and to discuss how OSCE institutions and other inter-governmental organisations have supported their efforts to combat discrimination and promote mutual respect and understanding.

Furthermore, considering the recent developments regarding the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Initiative, the Conference will also provide an opportunity to discuss how the OSCE, following-up to its initial contribution, could also make an appropriate contribution to the implementation of pertinent recommendations of the report of the High Level Group of the Initiative, presented to the UN Secretary General in November 2006.

The plenary sessions of the Conference will be divided into two parts. The first part will focus on common and specific forms of intolerance and discrimination, including anti-Semitism, intolerance and discrimination against Muslims, racism (including towards Roma and Sinti), xenophobia and discrimination, including against Christians and members of other religions. The second part of the Conference will include a discussion of cross-cutting issues such as legislation in the field of tolerance and non-discrimination, law enforcement response to hate crimes, data collection on hate crimes, education to promote mutual respect and understanding, inter-cultural/religious dialogue and ways to address racist, xenophobic and discriminatory public discourse, while respecting the freedom of expression.

As the host, the President of Romania, will address the Conference, followed by an address by the Spanish OSCE Chairman in Office. There will be a key-note address given by **H.R.H. Prince el Hassan bin Talal of Jordan** and a message delivered by **professor Elie Wiesel, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate**.

The Conference will be preceded by a Civil Society Preparatory Meeting aimed at reviewing the existing cooperation between civil society and public authorities in the field of tolerance and non discrimination and formulating concrete recommendations for consideration at the Conference. The recommendations developed will be presented by a civil society representative at the opening session of the Conference.

Thursday, 7 June 2007

09:00– 09:45 Opening ceremony

Formal opening of the Conference and keynote speeches: Challenges in implementing the OSCE commitments in the field of tolerance and non-discrimination.

As host, the **President of Romania**, will address the Conference and declare it opened, followed by the **OSCE Chairman-in-Office, H.E. Miguel Ángel Moratinos Cuyaubé, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation of Spain**

Subsequent keynote addresses will be given by:

- **Professor Elie Wiesel, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate – video message**
- **His Royal Highness Prince el Hassan bin Talal of Jordan**

09.45 - 11:30 Opening plenary session: Combating discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding

Moderator: OSCE Chairman-in-Office H.E. Miguel Ángel Moratinos Cuyaubé

Opening remarks by

Ambassador Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, Secretary General of the OSCE

Ambassador Christian Strohal, Director of the Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights,

Congressman Alcee Hastings, President Emeritus of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Followed by

Presentation of the key recommendations from the Civil Society Preparatory Meeting

Formal statements by delegations (limitation to a maximum of 5 minutes kindly requested)

In order to facilitate an orderly flow of interventions, delegations are kindly asked to inform beforehand about their request to intervene in this Opening Session by contacting Conference Services (Meetings Assistance Unit) at the following address: philip.dowdall@osce.org and milorad.cukic@osce.org.

In accordance with the title of this Session, statements can deal with the following topics:

- Implementation of OSCE commitments related to tolerance and non-discrimination; moving beyond tolerance to acceptance, based on mutual respect and understanding

11:30- 11:45 Coffee Break

11.45–13.00 Continuation Opening plenary session

13.00 - 15.00 LUNCHEON + SIDE EVENTS

**WORKING LUNCHEON OFFERED BY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ROMANIA WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF MINISTERS AND HEADS OF DELEGATIONS
“Salonul Brancovenesc”, Parliament Palace**

(on invitation)

LUNCHEON OFFERED BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ROMANIA TO ALL PARTICIPANTS

Salonul de Receptii, Parliament Palace

Part I. Common and specific forms of intolerance and discrimination

15.00 – 16.30 Plenary session 1: Combating anti-Semitism

Anti-Semitism has assumed new forms and expressions which, along with other forms of intolerance, pose a threat to democracy and to the overall security in the OSCE region and beyond. Despite an increased number of OSCE commitments aimed at combating the reoccurrence of hostility and hatred toward Jews - individually or collectively – on racial, social, and/or religious grounds, anti-Semitism is growing with verbal and physical attacks and in the desecration and vandalism of Jewish institutions, synagogues, cemeteries and Holocaust memorials. Anti-Semitic public discourse has also been widespread. Apart from public denials of the Holocaust, attempts at relativizing and trivializing the Holocaust have also been identified.

This session will focus on recent developments in the area of anti-Semitism. It will also explore the extent to which there is an increase in the number, frequency or intensity of anti-Semitic crimes and incidents in the OSCE region. Another focus will be on the variety of manifestations of anti-Semitism that exist across the region and on different patterns in the various participating States including violent attacks against individuals and institutions that are, or perceived to be, Jewish and the role of anti-Semitic discourse in fuelling such attacks.

The session will also examine new forms of anti-Semitism. New areas possibly requiring increased intervention and response by government such as anti-Semitism among youth, Holocaust denial and other areas will be identified. The session will also look at the ways in which participating States can strengthen their efforts to combat anti-Semitism, including through increased cooperation with civil society. Finally, this session will focus on implementation of the OSCE Permanent Council Decisions on Combating anti-Semitism under which participating States made specific commitments to combat anti-Semitism in all its forms.

Moderator:

Prof. Gert Weisskirchen, Personal Representative of the Chairman in Office on Combating Anti-Semitism

Introducers:

H.E. Mr. Yitzhak Herzog, Minister For Social Affairs and Services of the State of Israel

Prof. Dr. Mihai-Răzvan Ungureanu, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania

Ambassador Jacques Hutzinger, Ambassador at large in charge of issues related to the remembrance of the Shoah and to the compensation policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France

Note taker: Helmut Kulitz, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Germany to the OSCE

Topics may include, *inter alia*:

- How are participating States following up on the implementation of the OSCE Permanent Council Decision on Combating Anti-Semitism (PC.DEC/607) as well as the other commitments related to anti-Semitism in the Ljubljana and Brussels Ministerial Council Decisions?
- Raising awareness about the different forms of anti-Semitism in the OSCE area
- Discussion of key trends and challenges including anti-Semitic elements in media portrayal and political discourse, the globalisation of anti-Semitism, Holocaust denial and effective responses to combat anti-Semitic violence and hate crimes throughout the OSCE region
- Combating and countering anti-Semitism through awareness-raising and educational tools
- Presenting and discussing good practices of governments, institutions and civil society in combating anti-Semitism in the media and on the internet, while respecting freedom of expression
- How can the OSCE executive structures, including ODIHR, as well as the Personal Representative of the CiO on Combating Anti-Semitism, provide support to OSCE participating States in implementing their commitments to combat anti-Semitism?

16.30 – 16.45 Coffee break

16.45-18.15 Plenary session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination against Muslims

Along with other forms of intolerance, OSCE participating States have undertaken commitments to fight intolerance and discrimination against Muslims. However, intolerance against Muslims continues to find expression in various forms, including verbal threats, violent physical attacks, vandalism of mosques and schools. This session will attempt to outline the nature and scale of anti-Muslim incidents in and across the OSCE region.

This session will also examine the impact of discriminatory political rhetoric and public policies on both Muslim communities and the general climate of public opinion. Debates could also be envisaged on the influence of the use of discriminatory and negative rhetoric by political leaders and public figures on anti-Muslim sentiment; on issues concerning integration of Muslims while respecting cultural and religious diversity; on the abuse of religious texts to promote intolerance, and on matters pertaining to religious tolerance. This session will look at how positive political leadership and responsible media reporting can contribute to a non-discriminatory and unbiased portrayal of Muslims and increased understanding and cohesion within society.

This session will address the challenges Muslim face in being accepted as full and equal members of their respective societies and discuss forward-looking measures to increase mutual engagement and integration, including measures that might be taken by Muslims themselves.

Moderator:

Ambassador Omur Orhun, Personal Representative of the Chairman in Office on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims

Introducers:

Dr. Hassan Nafa'a, Secretary General, Arab Thought Forum

Prof. Tufyal Choudhury, Lecturer in the Department of Law, Durham University

Note taker: Mr. Alastair Long, Second Secretary, UK Delegation to the OSCE

Topics may include, *inter alia*:

- How are participating States following up on the implementation of the OSCE Permanent Council Decisions on Tolerance and the Fight against Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination (PC.DEC/621) as well as the other related commitments in the 2003-2006 Ministerial Council Decisions?
- Discussion of key trends and challenges including anti-Muslim elements in media portrayal and political discourse, and effective responses to combat anti-Muslim violence and hate crimes throughout the OSCE region
- How can OSCE executive structures, including ODIHR and the Personal Representative of the CiO on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims, provide support to OSCE participating States in implementing their commitments to combat intolerance against Muslims?

**CONCERT FOLLOWED BY A RECEPTION OFFERED BY THE PRIME-MINISTER OF ROMANIA, H.E. MR. CALIN POPESCU TARICEANU, TO ALL PARTICIPANTS
Amfiteatru C.A. Rosetti, Parliament Palace**

Friday, 8 June 2007

09:00- 11:00 Plenary session 3: Combating racism, xenophobia and discrimination, also focusing on intolerance and discrimination against Christians and members of other religions

Efforts to combat racism, xenophobia, religious-based discrimination and other forms of intolerance continue to be undermined by violent attacks committed by members of different communities and by public discourse which contributes to the spread of hatred and prejudice through portrayals that are racist, xenophobic and discriminatory.

Racism and discrimination against Roma and Sinti, also known as *anti-Gypsyism*, *anti-Tziganism* or *Romaphobia*, continues to exist across the OSCE region. Roma and Sinti continue to be victims of racially motivated crimes and hostility, rejection and public discourse. Such discriminatory and racist acts serve to further marginalise victims, exacerbate prejudice and hamper the access of Roma and Sinti individuals to employment, education, housing and health. The session will also provide an important opportunity to assess the implementation of the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area.

Christians and members of other religions face restrictions on their religious freedom. During this session discussions will underline problems such as discrimination against individuals in the workplace and public services; the disruption or prohibition of worship; verbal harassment and threats against members of any religion; abuse towards missionaries and missionary activity; lack of transparency and consistency in registration procedures; unlawful confiscation of property of religious communities and individuals; violent attacks against religious persons, vandalism and desecration of churches and other religious buildings, institutions and cemeteries; censorship of religious literature, and imprisonment of those who object to military service on religious grounds. These restrictions may be a direct result of

state legislation and policies, or, in other cases, they may arise as a result of a lack of protective action from state authorities, at times, in the face of a dominant religious majority.

In order to address the challenges resulting from racism, xenophobia, religiously-motivated discrimination and other forms of intolerance, it is important for governments to recognize the positive contribution that all individuals can make to the pluralistic character of their societies by promoting policies that ensure equality of opportunity, access to justice and public services and effective participation.

This session will be used to discuss trends and responses to racism (including against Roma and Sinti), xenophobia, discrimination, including against Christians and members of other religions. The discussion will highlight both challenges as well as good practices of governments and civil society in working to combat such manifestations of intolerance.

This session will also look at how efforts to promote freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief can support actions to combat religious-based discrimination against Christians and members of other religions.

Moderator: Anastasia Crickley, Personal Representative of the Chairman in Office on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, also focusing on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians and Members of Other Religions

Introducers:

Doudou Diene, UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance

Prof. Roberto de Mattei, European University in Rome

Note taker: Ms. Patrizia Falcinelli, Permanent Mission of Italy to the OSCE

Topics may include, *inter alia*:

- Discussion of key trends and challenges in responding to racially, ethnically and religiously motivated violence and other forms of hate crimes throughout the OSCE region
- Identification of good practices in combating and countering racist, xenophobic and religious-based prejudices and misrepresentations
- How are States implementing the 2003 Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area? How can the ODIHR enhance its assistance to participating States for a more effective and efficient implementation of the Action Plan, namely chapter III on Combating Racism and Discrimination? What steps should be taken to follow up on the recommendations of the two international high level conferences (Warsaw, 2005 and Bucharest, 2006) on addressing emerging trends regarding discrimination and intolerance against Roma, in their particular forms known as Anti-Gypsism and anti-Tziganism
- To what extent are OSCE States fulfilling the existing commitments to ensure and promote freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief? What are the reasons for participating States' failure to fulfil their commitments?
- What measures can be undertaken to further support OSCE participating States in increasing their commitments to promote inter-religious and intercultural dialogue and to promote respect and mutual understanding among Christians, members of other religious communities, and civil society and governments?

- The role of the Advisory Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief of the ODIHR in protecting freedom of religion while respecting religious identity in a pluralistic society and in offering technical assistance to participating States regarding legislation or governmental policies in order to overcome intolerance and discrimination against members of different religious communities
- How can the OSCE executive structures, including ODIHR, as well as the Personal Representative of the CiO on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, also focusing on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians and Members of Other Religions provide support to OSCE participating States in implementing their commitments to combat racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance?
- How can co-operation with the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (UNCERD), the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR), the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) and the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) be made more effective?

11:00-11:15 - Coffee Break

Part II

11:15- 12:30 Plenary Session 4: Legislation in the field of tolerance and non-discrimination; the role of law enforcement in combating hate crimes; data collection on hate crimes.

This session is intended to consider two complementary elements of the effort to combat hatred and intolerance. First, the development of legislation, or review of existing legislation to ensure it is effective in responding to hate crime and discrimination. Second, this session looks at ways to ensure that state organs apply legislation properly and provide mechanisms to monitor the nature and prevalence of hate crimes.

Since 2003, OSCE participating States have recognized the importance of legislation to combat intolerance and the incitement to hate crime. The implementation of OSCE commitment in the field of tolerance and non-discrimination requires frank discussion of the social context which enables hate crimes to occur. The process of passing or reviewing legislation can itself be an important step towards opening up a discussion of social attitudes. Experience also suggests that publicly available data, based on strong methodology, creates opportunities for frank dialogue within society.

During this session the concern expressed by the Ministerial Council in Bruxelles (MC.DEC. 13/06) at violent manifestations of extremism associated with racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, aggressive nationalism and neo-Nazism could be taken into consideration.

The need for effective data collection systems on hate crime has been highlighted by a number of international organizations. In 2006, the OSCE Tolerance Implementation Meeting “Addressing the Data Deficit” was held in order to provide a forum for experts and practitioners from OSCE participating States to exchange experiences and practices related to their hate crime data collection methodologies and to discuss ways to further strengthen approaches to data collection.

A data deficit not only hampers the ability of governments to assess and analyse the nature and extent of hate crime but more significantly prevents the development of effective measures and strategies to prevent and respond to hate-motivated acts. Hate crimes are allowed to flourish unchecked when law enforcement and criminal justice agencies are unaware of the nature of the problem and cannot develop effective techniques to respond to them.

This session will be used as an opportunity to highlight specific “best practices” of government, national institutions and civil society in their joint efforts to monitor and respond to hate-motivated crimes. The role of law enforcement officials in identifying, investigating and responding to hate crimes will also be discussed. The necessity of strong partnerships between governments, institutions and civil society in responding to and preventing anti-Semitic and hate-motivated crimes will also be discussed. During the discussion, the ODIHR’s report on *Challenges and Responses to Hate-Motivated Incidents in the OSCE Region*, will serve as one of the references to highlight trends pertaining to hate-motivated incidents.

Moderator: Ambassador Christian Strohal, Director, ODIHR

Introducers:

Hon. Alcee L. Hastings, Chairman of the Helsinki Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, US Helsinki Commission,

Dr. Beate Winkler, interim Director, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights

Note taker: Ms. Maria Kostyanya, Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the OSCE

Topics may include, *inter alia*:

- To what extent have participating States undertaken efforts to strengthen legislation related to hate crime, combating discrimination and ensuring freedom of religion or belief?
- What progress has been made by participating States on the elaboration of national institutional mechanisms to collect reliable data and information on hate crimes and what steps have they taken to inform ODIHR about existing legislation regarding crimes related to intolerance and discrimination?
- What steps have participating States taken to educate law enforcement officials on hate crime legislation and to enforce the message on the importance of seriously implementing these laws? What can police do to ensure that communities feel safer in reporting crimes committed against them?
- What is the effectiveness of the ODIHR’s Law Enforcement Officer Programme on Combating Hate Crime?
- How can the OSCE executive structures and other inter-governmental organisations assist participating States in their efforts to strengthen legislation, data collection and law enforcement response?

12:30-14:00 LUNCH + SIDE EVENTS

LUNCHEON OFFERED BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ROMANIA TO ALL PARTICIPANTS

Salonul de Receptii, Parliament Palace

14.00-15.30 Plenary Session 5: Education to promote mutual respect and understanding, remembrance of the Holocaust, and inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue

Education to prepare students to live in increasingly pluralistic societies can be a cornerstone of promoting mutual respect and understanding. Remembrance of the Holocaust is an essential element of such education. Efforts to foster an appreciation for the positive contribution of cultural and religious diversity to society, such as awareness-raising campaigns, inter-cultural educational initiatives and inter-religious dialogue play a key role in maintaining social cohesion and mutual understanding. Education

systems also have a responsibility to address specific national or local manifestations of discrimination and intolerance – whether historical or current – and to combat prejudice and negative stereotypes. The formal curricula, textbooks and supplementary materials, extra-curricular activities, the school environment itself, and teacher training programs are all crucial instruments in achieving positive results.

Building upon the recommendations of the 2006 Tolerance Implementation Meeting on Education to promote Mutual Respect and Understanding and to Teach about the Holocaust, Dubrovnik, 23-24 October 2006, this session will highlight educational practices within participating States that aim to create an appreciation and value for cultural and religious diversity. Ways to evaluate the effectiveness of educational programmes in altering attitudes, challenging stereotypes and prejudices and promoting intercultural dialogue and understanding will be discussed as well as measures to multiply identified good practices throughout the OSCE area.

In follow-up to the 2006 OSCE Tolerance Implementation Meeting on Promoting Inter-Cultural, Inter-Religious and Inter-Ethnic Dialogue, Almaty, 12-13 June 2006 the session will also be used to highlight the ways in which inter-cultural, inter-religious and inter-ethnic dialogue and civil society partnerships can be used to combat prejudice and stereotypes in public and political discourse and to promote conflict prevention/de-escalation.

This session will also examine the progress made by participating States in implementing OSCE commitments to promote educational programmes for promoting remembrance and education about the tragedy of the Holocaust.

Moderator: Gabriela Battaini-Dragoni, Director General for Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport, Council of Europe

Introducers:

Eberhard Seidel, German Federal Coordinator and executive chairman of “Schools without Racism/Schools with Courage” Network
Lord Greville Janner, Lord Janner of Braunstone, Q.C.,

Note taker: Ted Kontek, US Delegation to the OSCE

Topics may include, *inter alia*:

- Follow-up to the 2006 Tolerance Implementation Meetings in Almaty on “Promoting Inter-Cultural, Inter-Religious and Inter-Ethnic Understanding” and in Dubrovnik on “Education to promote Mutual Respect and Understanding and to Teach about the Holocaust”;
- What could be an appropriate OSCE contribution by the OSCE to the implementation of pertinent recommendations from the report of the High Level Group of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Initiative?
- What are the best practices of OSCE participating States in supporting the promotion of mutual respect and understanding through education? How can existing models and recommendations be effectively implemented, evaluated and assessed?
- How can education be used to teach about religion?

- To what extent have OSCE participating States implemented educational programmes for combating anti-Semitism as well as the remembrance and education about the Holocaust and all its victims?
- In the context of existing commitments, how the OSCE executive structures, including ODIHR, in co-operation with other international organizations and actors, can assist participating States in developing educational programmes, including in revising existing textbooks in terms of accuracy and non-biased portrayals.

15.30 – 15.45 Coffee break

15:45- 17:15 Plenary session 6: Addressing racist, xenophobic and discriminatory public discourse spread through, inter alia, the media, Internet, satellite TV and textbooks, while respecting freedom of expression

In its 2006 Decision, the OSCE Ministerial Council expressed deep concern regarding racist, xenophobic and discriminatory public discourse. Increasingly throughout the OSCE region, right-wing extremist political parties and political leaders are mounting political campaigns sometimes based on racist, xenophobic, discriminatory and anti-Roma discourse, promising their constituencies to solve the threat that immigrants, migrants, Roma and other groups are said to be posing to their society. The scape-goating of these groups is widespread and creates a climate which often serves to fuel and incite hate crimes against these groups.

Recent reports issued by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance and the United Nations Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance have also expressed concern over the way in which discriminatory and hate-motivated discourse have become increasingly prevalent within mainstream political parties and media. While the educational system should provide the basis for providing accurate information about different cultures and religions, in some cases textbooks and other learning materials are serving to reinforce biased portrayals and discriminatory depictions of different communities.

This session will examine the positive role that political representatives can play in defusing tensions within societies by speaking out against hate-motivated acts and by recognising the positive contributions that all individuals can make to a pluralistic society.

Across participating States, mass media represents a powerful tool to shape, perpetuate and crystallize public perception of diverse component of all societies. The media can be also a powerful tool to open up societies and present pluralistic views. During this session the strong influence that the media can have in countering or exacerbating misperceptions will be discussed along with different measures that can be undertaken to enhance professionalism and adherence to ethical standards among journalists including the adoption of voluntary professional standards by journalists and media self-regulation.

Moderator: Miklos Haraszti, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

Introducers:

Mircea Toma, Romanian Media Monitoring Agency

Prof. Dr. Gun Kut, Bosphorus University

Note taker: Mustafa Osman Turan, Permanent Mission of Turkey to the OSCE

Topics may include, *inter alia*:

- Implementation of the OSCE Permanent Council Decision on Promoting Tolerance and Media Freedom on the Internet (PC.DEC/633);
- Follow-up to the 2004 OSCE Meeting on the Relationship between Racist, Xenophobic and Anti-Semitic Propaganda on the Internet and Hate Crimes in Paris and the 2006 Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on “Freedom of the Media: Access to Information and Protection of Journalists”;
- How can media across participating States become an instrument in improving public perception of diversity within our societies? How can media facilitate an inclusive participation in public discourse?
- How can governments and the media contribute positively to public perceptions and attitudes?
- How can the participating States work to effectively combat rhetoric that incites violent acts of hatred against immigrant, migrant, Roma and other communities by extremist political parties, movements and groups, while respecting the freedom of expression?
- What is the link between racist, xenophobic and anti-Semitic discourse and the commission of crimes motivated by racist, anti-Semitic or other related bias?
- How can freedom of expression for all be protected in order to foster pluralism and diversity?
- How can OSCE executive structures, including the Representative on Freedom of the Media and the ODIHR and other international organizations and actors support efforts to raise awareness among journalists about religious and cultural sensitivities and diversity?

17:15 - 18:00 Closing session

Moderator: Amb. Liviu Aurelian Bota, Permanent Representative of Romania to the OSCE

In this session the six moderators will summarize discussions and recommendations made in the sessions on how the OSCE participating States and OSCE structures can further strengthen and operationalize their efforts to combat discrimination and promote mutual respect and understanding. There will also be possibility for reactions from the floor. The results of the Conference will be brought forward to the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw on 24 September – 5 October 2007.

In order to more accurately reflect the results of the Conference, participants are encouraged to submit in writing to the Chairman-in-Office any recommendations they wish to make. It would be helpful if participants could specify for whom the recommendations are intended, for example, individual OSCE participating States, the OSCE as a whole, OSCE structures and institutions such as the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the High Commissioner on National Minorities, and the Representative on the Freedom of the Media or OSCE field operations.

- Reports by the plenary session moderators;

- Conclusions and recommendations. The way ahead: Consolidating progress and facing new challenges.

18:00- 18:30 Closing ceremony

- Formal closing of the Conference.

BILATERAL MEETINGS

There will be limited space available for high level bilateral meetings at the Congress Palace. Delegations willing to hold high level bilateral meetings during the Conference are kindly asked to communicate simultaneously their requests beforehand till (add date) to the following contact points:

Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, address: Aleea Alexandru 33, sector 1, Bucharest, e-mail: elisabeta.david@mae.ro, tel.: +40 21 319 21 08 ext. 1143, fax.: +40 21 319.23.67

Romanian Representation to the OSCE in Vienna, e-mail: alina.popescu@mprom.at, fax: (+43 1) 5129057.

SIDE EVENTS

To be included in the final version of the annotated agenda

EXHIBITIONS

1. Jewish Witness to a Romanian Century, Pictures and Stories from the Centropa Century, organized by CENTROPA
2. Visas for Freedom: Spanish Diplomats and the Holocaust, organized by Casa Sefarad/Israel.

CIVIL SOCIETY PREPARATORY MEETING

Please be informed that the OSCE conference will be preceded by a Civil Society Preparatory meeting on 6 June 2007 organized by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. This meeting aims at gathering civil society representatives to discuss topics related to the main conference and come up with a set of recommendations to be presented during the opening sessions of the conference.

Interested civil society Representatives as well as OSCE delegates are invited to participate. More information is available on the ODIHR's TANDIS website: <http://tandis.odihr.pl/?p=cs.upcoming.prep>
For further information please contact the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) under the following email: civilsociety@odihr.pl