

**Statement by Ambassador Ömür Orhun,  
Permanent Representative of Turkey to the OSCE,  
at the Conference on Anti-Semitism  
(Vienna, 19-20 June 2003)**

(SESSION 3: INFORMATION AND AWARENESS-RAISING: THE ROLE OF THE MEDIA  
IN CONVEYING AND COUNTERING PREJUDICE)

Since my delegation has already subscribed to the EU statement, it was not my intention to take the floor. However, because of an intervention made yesterday at Session III, and another earlier today, I feel obliged to say a few words on countering prejudice.

History of mankind is full of conflicts, wars or sufferings. If we look at the past, no one can claim complete immunity.

However, we are not gathered here to arbitrarily judge them, to prove or disprove them, or to seek definitions with a futile attempt to matching them with the Holocaust, which - no doubt - caused the greatest suffering of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

We are here to address issues related to anti-Semitism, to identify contemporary challenges that we are faced with in this context and to seek ways and means to meet these challenges which are once again unfortunately threatening peace and stability.

While doing so, we should focus our attention on constructive efforts aimed at creating an atmosphere of tolerance, mutual understanding and friendship for future peace and prosperity of our nations.

Drawing experience from last year's OIC-EU Joint Forum on Civilization and Harmony, I explained our views on these issues yesterday. I underlined the importance of communication and the role of the media in an effective long term strategy in countering anti-Semitism and other human rights violations generated by racial and religious hatred. The text of my statement has already been distributed.

I wish to reiterate these considerations by way of concluding my remarks.