

Delegation of Andorra

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ANDORRA AT THE
961st MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

18 July 2013

Regarding activities to promote tolerance and non-discrimination

Mr. Chairperson,

As pointed out in previous statements made by this delegation, we very much welcome the fact that one of Ukraine's priorities this year is to promote tolerance and non-discrimination and educate young people in human rights. We are pleased that this work will continue during the future chairmanships of Switzerland and Serbia. We believe that this topic should take a prominent place in the construction of the "security community".

In particular, we firmly believe that educating young people in democratic citizenship and raising their awareness gives them the necessary tools to learn, exercise and defend their rights and responsibilities in society, and allows them to appreciate and respect diversity and unite on common values essential for ensuring culturally diverse and inclusive societies with equal opportunities. In fact, promoting democratic citizenship was a priority for Andorra during our Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in the first half of this year.

My country supports all kinds of actions, activities and programmes to promote tolerance and non-discrimination among young people, who are a valuable asset in our societies, within international organizations such as the Council of Europe, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the OSCE. We have also undertaken small national initiatives in this area.

In this context, let me tell you something about one of those initiatives. Art Camp is a project currently registered as a UNESCO event and is a gathering of artists that takes place every two years in Andorra. The last Art Camp, in July 2012, hosted 37 artists from 30 countries on 5 continents.

I should like to mention that some of the participants come from countries that have suffered or continue to suffer from violent conflicts.

Art Camp creates a common international space where for two weeks participants share their ideas and values as artists and as human beings. The participants also discussed issues on the agenda of international organizations, such as the sustainable development of

economic, energy and natural resources as well as respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

This meeting also promotes the diversity of cultural expression. Each participant presented their culture to the others and exchanges were organized between artists and young Andorrans allowing the artists to discover the history and traditional values of Andorra, a country particularly sensitive to the promotion of democracy, tolerance and mutual respect as prerequisites for ensuring a culture of peace.

In conclusion, I am pleased to announce that in the room next door there is an exhibition on the 2012 Art Camp focusing on sustainable energy for all. On behalf of the Andorran Government I invite you to visit this exhibition and attend its inauguration, which will take place today at 1 p.m.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.