

OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting  
Warsaw

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Working Session 10

**Statement by the European Jewish Congress**

Mr Chairman,

According to the latest report of the European Agency for Fundamental Rights, the FRA, only eleven EU states collect sufficient data on racist crime to conduct any sort of analysis. Of these only four collect sufficient data on antisemitic crime to conduct any analysis.

The latest ODIHR report likewise notes many states' failure in this respect, adding that some also use different approaches to what constitutes a hate crime, despite agreement on a broad definition at the 2003 Maastricht Ministerial Council meeting, where it was also agreed that they would collect such data.

In 2004 the Ministerial Council also agreed that states should collect and maintain reliable information and statistics on antisemitic crimes, and that this would be made available to the public. Shortly thereafter the EUMC, now the FRA, produced a 'Working Definition on Antisemitism' to assist them.

Yet the fact is that many states have failed to implement these and other Ministerial Council decisions designed to combat the rise in anti Jewish violence.

Some states have done so, and they are to be applauded. But at the same time it is important to note out that in doing so they are not only assisting their Jewish citizens, who may be suffering, or who may be fearful of future attacks.

They are doing so because of self interest; they realise that while racism often starts with the Jews, it doesn't stop with the Jews. It goes on to erode the basis of society.

During the past two years we have met on several occasions within the framework of ODIHR conferences and workshops to examine the data deficit.

But in truth there has been little improvement.

Mr Chairman, it is impossible to monitor and combat the evil of racist violence and antisemitism without specific disaggregated data. Without it we cannot gauge if the situation in a country is getting worse, or better.

Antisemitism is often called the oldest hatred; it goes back more than two thousand years. But it has also demonstrated that it can come from new and differing directions. Some states have not fully understood this yet. Forecasts from authoritative monitoring bodies suggest that antisemitism in some states is getting worse. That is certainly the perception of Jewish communities.

For this reason we urge all member states to abide by the agreements they have entered into if they are to understand what is going on within their borders.

ODIHR now provides advice and training in defeating this age old scourge, and we trust that those that have not yet availed themselves of this assistance will do so.

Thank you