

Buantoscaireacht na hÉireann
don Eagraíocht um Shlándáil agus Comhar san Eoraip
Permanent Mission of Ireland to the
Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe



Statement by Ireland at the 1502nd Meeting of the Permanent Council

Response to Addresses by the Personal Representative of the OSCE CiO on Combating Anti-Semitism; the Personal Representative of the OSCE CiO on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims; and the Personal Representative of the OSCE CiO on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, also focusing on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians and Members of Other Religions

12 December 2024

Thank you, Mr Chair

Ireland would like to thank the three Personal Representative of the OSCE Chair-in-Office, Rabbi Andrew Baker, Ambassador Evren Dağdelen Akgün and Dr Regina Polak, for their comprehensive presentations to the Permanent Council.

We would also like to thank them for the excellent cooperation, guidance and recommendations which have been very helpful in our capacity as Chair of the Human Dimension Committee.

Fostering tolerance and mutual understanding is essential in safeguarding human rights and fundamental freedoms, and in contributing to security in our region and has been highlighted at meetings of the OSCE Human Dimension Committee, during which a range of speakers have identified intolerance and discrimination as key underlying threats to stability in the OSCE region.

Mr Chair,

All participating States have recognised the importance of addressing intolerance, racism, antisemitism and xenophobia, in multiple Ministerial Council decisions. We have mandated ODIHR to support us in our efforts but ultimate responsibility lies with us.

As mentioned today, at an ad hoc meeting of the Human Dimension Committee in May and at the Warsaw Human Dimension Conference, the three Personal Representatives discussed challenges in the field of promoting tolerance and non-discrimination. Among the worrying trends identified were the safety concerns of Jewish communities and particularly younger members of Jewish communities across the OSCE region, the ‘scapegoating’ and marginalisation of Muslim minorities in many Western States as well as anti-Christian hate crimes.

We should all be concerned about the proliferation of hate and division within our societies and the real-life, everyday impact on ordinary citizens. Ireland remains committed to tackling discrimination in all its forms and looks forward to further cooperation with ODIHR and the three Personal Representatives on taking concrete action to promote tolerance and inclusion.

Thank you