

Intervention by Suzette Bronkhorst, representing the the Internet Centre Anti Racism Europe (ICARE), at the OSCE Human Dimensions Implementation Meeting 2007, Warsaw, Poland, during working session 2, Tuesday September 25, 'Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding – implementation of commitments' – continued.

I have some brief remarks and questions about the Conference on intolerance and discrimination against Muslims organized by the OSCE chairmanship in Cordoba on 9 & 10 October 2007. We were very glad to hear of this conference that addresses a major tolerance issue in the OSCE region.

Therefore we're somewhat taken aback at the fact that the agenda still hasn't been published, making it very hard to prepare and give structured and productive input. Another point of concern is the preceding NGO meeting. We've learned there is going to be such a meeting, inconveniently a distance away from Cordoba, in another town. For this event there is also no agenda and no further information.

NGOs are eager to contribute to OSCE events, however due to resource constraints we need careful and long-term planning ahead.

- We like to ask the Spanish Chairmanship to, as soon as possible, provide an annotated agenda for the Cordoba conference. We also like to ask the chairmanship if it sees possibilities to organize the NGO event in Cordoba itself.
- Lastly, we want to recommend the OSCE participating states, when planning future conferences and other events, to show more consideration for NGOs who wish to participate.