



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE HOLY SEE
TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY
AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

**STATEMENT BY THE HOLY SEE
AS DELIVERED BY MONSIGNOR MARINKO ANTOLOVIĆ
AT THE 921th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL
19 JULY 2012**

Re: Review of current issues

Mister Chairman,

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the well-known position of the Holy See that so called “sexual orientation” or LGBT issues do not belong to the area of competence of the OSCE agenda. There is no consensus among participating States on these topics and no commitments in this regard, even if some are repeatedly trying to force our Organization to deal with it. Hence, the Holy See will not accept to discuss these issues.

In support of *non-consensus* regarding the just mentioned matters, let me quote the ODIHR’s guide booklet on “Preventing and responding to hate crimes” published in 2009 referring to the issue of so called “sexual orientation”: “It is important to note that there remains no clear consensus among the OSCE participating States about the specific inclusion of this ground for discrimination within the OSCE commitments and that not all participating States officially recognize the category of “sexual orientations” within their national legislation”.

Furthermore, in the recently presented EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy, under article 22, as one of the aims of the Action Plan, is indicated the following: “Promoting adoption of commitments in the area of human rights of LGBT within the OSCE”. Well, if something needs to be promoted for adoption, it means that that the current state of the issue is: it has never been adopted before – therefore, it does not belong to the agreed and consensual commitments.

Regarding non-discrimination, so called “sexual orientation” cannot constitute a quality comparable to race or ethnic origin, as it was advocated and advanced earlier in this assembly, because unlike race or ethnic origin, it objectively belongs to the sphere of ethics and morality, and therefore has significantly different status.

In conclusion, what is needed and desirable in our Organization is more focused energy and efforts to fulfill the OSCE commitments agreed upon by all participating States, and to resist unilateral expansion of the same. Undue attention to other concerns serves only to distract the efforts of the OSCE, many of which have yet to be implemented.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman!