



Permanent Delegation of Belarus  
to the OSCE

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### Statement

by the Chairman of the Committee on Religion and Nationalities  
under the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus Stanislav Buko

**OSCE Conference on Anti-Semitism and Other Forms of Intolerance**

(Cordoba, 8-9 June 2005)

Mr. Chairman,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We consider useful and necessary today's information exchange on the best practices of education on tolerance issues, legal frameworks and mechanisms to combat anti-Semitism and other forms of intolerance. It is the objective of our Conference. We agree as well that we need to move from developing recommendations to their implementation.

Given the OSCE decisions pertaining to the topics of our today's Conference, which we have adopted earlier, the state authorities of the Republic of Belarus have taken necessary steps on their implementation. In particular, the appropriate data and statistics were forwarded to the relevant OSCE institutions. In the materials distributed by the Conference services you can find this information.

The legislation of the Republic of Belarus in the field of fighting against racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance is in full compliance with the international standards.

The absence of any significant contradictions and problems in national and confessional spheres of the public life has been characteristic of Belarus in the course of its whole history.

Belarusian society has preserved its international structure peculiar to the development of any modern society, and the policy of the Belarusian State is directed at safekeeping and strengthening this *status quo* as it guarantees social stability.

As one of the most important achievements of the period since our independence, and primarily the last decade, the authorities of Belarus see the preservation of stable national relations.

The key factor, which prevents discrimination on national and racial basis, is the predominance in the Republic of Belarus of the political forces opposing nationalism and xenophobia.

However, the Republic of Belarus witnessed separate cases of xenophobia and intolerance. These incidents do not remain unattended by the Belarusian authorities, which in cooperation with civil society conduct consistent work on combating this negative phenomenon.

The state bodies of the Republic of Belarus, its civil society, categorically condemn all forms of anti-Semitism, as well as xenophobia and intolerance and racism as whole, and take all legally envisaged systematic efforts to counteract them, to bring up new generation in the spirit of tolerance and to cooperate with mass media on these issues.

We think that the theme of fighting intolerance and discrimination should remain a high priority for our Organization and its participating States. In this regard we support a Kazakh initiative to hold the OSCE Conference on Mutual Respect and Understanding as an Aspects for Implementation of Inter-Cultural, Inter-Ethnic and Inter-Religious Dialogue in 2006.

In conclusion we would like to thank the Government of Spain, Slovenian Chairmanship, as well as the OSCE institutions and Secretariat for their efforts to organize this Conference.

I thank you for your attention.