

**OSCE HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING  
Warsaw, 28 September to 9 October 2009**

**Working session 10: Tolerance and non-discrimination  
Review of the implementation of commitments, promotion of mutual  
respect and understanding  
Monday, 5 October 2009**

**Written Statement of the Delegation of the Republic of Macedonia in  
exercise of its right of reply**

Referring to the Statement made by the Bulgarian Delegation on Working Session 10: Tolerance and non-discrimination, the Republic of Macedonia would like to state that it attaches greatest attention to the promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination having in mind their significance for the Macedonian society. Our national legislation and administrative practice are based on the respect for ethnic diversity. In fact, it is reflected in every segment of our society.

Regarding the implementation of the OSCE commitments on tolerance and non-discrimination it is worth noting that all the relevant international standards in this domain, including the OSCE commitments are transposed in our legislation and practice. The Constitution stipulates that "Citizens of the Republic of Macedonia are equal in their freedoms and rights, regardless of sex, race, color of skin, national and social origin, political and religious beliefs, property and social status. All citizens are equal before the Constitution and the law". Also, the relevant articles of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Macedonia incriminates the violation of equality of citizens on grounds of difference in gender, race, color of skin, national and social origin, political and religious conviction, property and social status, language and other personal features or circumstances.

The Macedonian Encyclopedia, publication of the Macedonian Academy of Science and Art, is a subject of extensive scientific and public debate nowadays in Macedonia. The mentioned publication will be subject of additional internal consideration within the Academy, which is an autonomous and independent scientific institution and acts in accordance with the accepted standards on freedom of thought and expression as well as the freedom for creation of scientific, cultural and art works. The aim of the publication is to provide an overview of the most important aspects of the Macedonian society, culture, history, art etc without interfering into the existing political relations of the Republic of Macedonia with neighboring states. The mere fact of having scientific and public debate linked to this publication should be considered as a positive approach, since broad and open debates with the participation of different stakeholders on issues raising

particular attention are qualifications of a democratic society and they, certainly, contribute to the elimination of any form of hate speech. However, we do not see the relevance of raising this issue at HDIM, and especially not in the context presented by the respectable delegation. On the mention of the attitude of Macedonia vis-a vis neighboring states in this statement, Macedonia believes that the basis for good-neighborliness is mutual respect and cooperation among neighboring states. The promotion of this policy is the competence of national authorities and the Macedonian authorities have acted responsibly and with great care in this issue, leaving the Macedonian Academy of Science and Art to work independently, according to its statutory principles and having in mind their responsible role in the creation of the scientific and the public opinion.