

Intervention by the Delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt
H.E Ambassador Soliman Awaad

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, for your lucid and comprehensive statement during the inaugural session.

Your Excellency's statement did reflect a great deal of vision and integrity.

Same congratulations are due to Belgium, the host country of this important Conference, for a job well done.

Having listened to the inspiring statements during the inaugural session, my delegation is more convinced than ever of the crucial importance of this OSCE event in Brussels. It represents a cornerstone in promoting tolerance and combating racism, xenophobia, and discrimination.

We are all in the same boat, and it will serve our best interest to contribute to the full success of this conference. Such success is conditional to addressing all forms, kinds, acts and manifestations of intolerance, racism, xenophobia and discrimination even-handedly in a comprehensive, balanced, and non-selective approach. Anti-Semitism and anti-Moslem sentiments are two major problems with very particular specificity.

The surge in anti-Arab and anti-Muslim and Islamophobic trends in the aftermath of the September 11th terrorist attacks have to be addressed adequately and on the same footing. We hope the OSCE could convene in the near future a conference devoted to anti-Muslim issues similar to the successful conference held in Berlin last April on anti-Semitism.

This was, Mr. Chairman, the essence of the letter addressed to you by the Arab Ambassadors Council based in Brussels, to which the Delegation of Egypt wholeheartedly subscribes.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation will be in your hands to help ensure the conference full success under your able guidance and leadership.

Thank You