

**CENTRAL COUNCIL  
FOR GERMAN SINTI AND ROMANIES**

HDIM.DEL/467/06  
11 October 2006

Bremeneckgasse 2,  
D-69117 Heidelberg  
Phone +49 (0) 6221-98 11 01  
Fax: +49(0) 6221-98 11 90  
E-mail:  
zentralrat@sintiundroma.de

**Submission for the "OSCE Implementation Meeting"**

on October 11, 2006, in Warsaw

**Subject: National minorities/Romanies and Sinti**

**For an international conference against the "Dissemination of Hatred on the Internet" with participation of the media and provider industry**

The Central Council for German Sinti and Romanies asks the OSCE Implementation Meeting for support. The government of the Federal Republic of Germany is requested to hold an international conference in Berlin against rightist extremist hate propaganda on the Internet. The purpose shall be to determine new cross-national fight measures.

One example is the racist German-speaking "freeyourmind" forum aiming against Sinti and Romanies as well as against Jews. The German Public Prosecution Service, having been engaged by the Central Council for German Sinti and Romanies in March 2006, now wrote that it was unable to block that forum as it is controlled from Germany via an operator company located abroad. The internet forum abuses the public-legal contract between the provincial government of Rhineland-Palatinate and the regional association of the Central Council to spread racist agitation with phrases such as "dirty gipsy vermin", "stealing mob" and "Jewry is criminality" as well as for calls to violence such as "Only force of arms will bring a change", "Red is the blood on the tarmac" and "The only solution - the Final Solution." There must be no capitulation to this neo-Nazi hate propaganda on the Internet and to the abuse of the Internet as a communication technology.

Hitherto, the realisation of an international conference has been rejected for no satisfying reason. In a letter to the Central Council, the Federal Ministry of Justice stated as an explanation for this refusal that it "feared" such a conference "would soon focus on abstract questions of principle." This is untenable as all important questions of principle have been cleared up since the first "International Conference Against Dissemination of Hatred on the Internet" which was organised by the Federal Government and the Simon-Wiesenthal-Center/Los Angeles in 2000. This conference in the year 2000 was attended by Ministers of Justice from many European countries as well as by members of the American Congress, FBI Directors, the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution, the Federal German Bar and also by the managements of media groups like Bertelsmann, AOL and Amazon. However, the objective of the past joint "Berlin Declaration" that "everything which is illegal offline shall be illegal online as well" was not reached in practice.



HAUSANSCHRIFT Graurheindorfer Straße 198, 53117 Bonn

POSTANSCHRIFT Postfach 17 02 90, 53108 Bonn

TEL +49 (0)1888 681-

FAX +49 (0)1888 681-

BEARBEITET VON

E-MAIL

INTERNET

DIENSTSITZ Bonn

DATUM Bonn, 6. Oktober 2006

AZ M II 4 - 093

## **Response of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany**

to the proposal of the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma  
for the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting  
in Warsaw on 11 October 2006

Calling for an international conference  
on “Disseminating hate via the Internet”

The Federal Government shares the view of the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma that decisive action must be taken against the dissemination of racism and hate via the Internet. This field has high priority for the Federal Government. Aside from the difficulties in this field, however, one should not overlook the significant progress that has been made in recent years. One important step was the adoption of the Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime, which requires member states to criminalize the dissemination of racist and xenophobic material through computer systems and sets minimum standards for doing so. In the Federal Government's view, the most important thing now is to take action in the spirit of such conventions: to promote and improve practical, cross-border cooperation. To this end, the German Federal Government is, for example, providing funds for associations that take action against hate and racism on the Internet. The Federal Government is convinced that using such practical measures to fight racism and xenophobia on the Internet is more effective than organizing another international conference.