



ENGLISH only

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**OSCE Conference on anti-Semitism
EU intervention at the closing session**

Over these two days, the conference has examined four key areas and has shown that anti-Semitism is not limited to a single country but is an issue across the OSCE area. In the spirit of the Porto Decision No 6, the European Union is ready to remain actively involved in the follow-up to this conference, taking into consideration all recommendations made. The EU believes that to ensure effectiveness a comprehensive and coherent approach requires that developments in the various fields and areas are mutually supportive. Progress in individual areas can only have limited effect: legislation for example needs to be backed up by complementary action by specialised bodies; in the education field, progress could be made through teaching and materials, information and awareness raising activities at the local level and the training of those involved in the criminal and justice system.

The EU stresses the importance of drawing from the lessons learnt in combating anti-Semitism also in addressing racism, xenophobia and discrimination, using the experience and initiatives on the various issues to support action across the board. This approach should guide us at the forthcoming Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw in October when examining the recommendations from this conference and the conference on Racism in September. Our endeavours in these areas can only benefit from a coordinated approach, rational use of resources, the strengthening of the solidarity of the various groups engaged in the fight against all forms of racism.

Mainstreaming racism and anti-Semitism across core policy areas of government activity brings the added value of greater consistency in government policy making and coherence and cohesiveness in action. This applies equally to the work of the OSCE and its participating States, and should be the subject of common activities between the inter-governmental organisations. It is therefore vital that the recommendations of the conference incorporate existing achievements and initiatives, that we prioritise those which are practical and forward-looking and strengthen the cooperation between the OSCE institutions and its participating States and the OSCE and other organisations such as the EU and the council of Europe at the European level.

In addition, government action can only have limited effect if not fully supported by the victims themselves, anti-racism organisations and the

media. There needs to be capacity building of non-governmental organisations to combat racism and anti-Semitism more effectively and form transnational partnerships as the phenomena is transnational in character. Intercultural and inter-faith initiatives should be supported, they not only provide a forum for discussion and improved understanding between key groups on the issues, but may lead to greater solidarity and more effective action at the local level.

The conference has identified the key challenges and provided much needed recommendations for addressing those challenges. The way forward is to use more effectively the opportunities for making the current structures of the OSCE and participating States engage on racism, xenophobia, discrimination and anti-Semitism, using more targeted approaches in cooperation with the EU and Council of Europe mechanisms to combat racism, discrimination, xenophobia and anti-Semitism as a whole.

The conclusions of this conference will be taken into account at the forthcoming OSCE Conference on Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, organised by the Dutch Chairmanship, since all of these issues are closely linked.

The Acceding Countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia and the Associated Countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey align themselves with this statement.