



PC.DEL/336/04  
29 April 2004

ENGLISH only

**Permanent Mission of Ireland  
to the OSCE**

Rotenturmstrasse 16-18,  
A-1010 Vienna  
Tel: +43 1 71576 9826  
Fax: +43 1 715  
5755

ireland-osce@chello.at

---

## **Irish Presidency of the European Union**

---

### **OSCE Conference on anti-Semitism Closing Statement**

The past two days have seen a real effort on the part of the OSCE, its participating States, NGOs and others to tackle the challenges we all face in the combat against anti-Semitism. As Mr Brian Cowen, T.D., Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ireland and President of the European Council, put it in his address to the Conference, we hope that this event, and the other related intolerance events this year, will yield positive, lasting results for our communities. The European Union would like once again to express its gratitude to the Bulgarian Chairmanship-in-Office for its preparation of this Conference, as well as to the German government for the warm welcome with which we have all been received.

Over the course of the various sessions, we considered four interlinked themes, relating to legislative and institutional mechanisms, to the promotion of tolerance, to the role of education and to the role of the media.

The European Union considers vital a proper approach by institutions of State in developing legislative and other measures to fight intolerance. The EU has described to this Conference its experience in setting up solid, working mechanisms to mainstream anti-intolerance practices in a holistic manner right across our policy areas. In discussing the promotion of tolerance, the EU highlighted the need for understanding and dialogue between different faith groups and race communities; statistics may describe the symptoms, but if there is to be any hope of a cure, then dialogue is the best medicine. In this connection, we look forward to the OSCE

Conference on Tolerance and the Fight against Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, to be held in Brussels in September.

For anti-Semitism must be fought not only by Jewish people, but by people of all races and creeds. In terms of education, the European Union reiterates the need to learn the bitter lessons of the past while also using education as a tool to promote tolerance. In our statement on the role of the media, we identified ways to increase the effectiveness of the media in countering prejudice. However, the possibility does exist of the intolerant misuse of some media, such as the Internet, and we are pleased to have the opportunity to engage with this issue during the Special Meeting on the Relationship between Racist, Xenophobic and anti-Semitic Propaganda on the Internet and Hate Crimes, to be held in Paris in June.

The Berlin Conference has explored the key challenges before us, while providing much needed recommendations for taking up those challenges. The European Union calls upon all participating States of the OSCE to take an active part in the follow-up to this Conference. We should take into account the recommendations made and ensure that in the wake of the Decisions taken by our Ministerial Council last December and by our Permanent Council this month, the Organisation's approach remains action-oriented. The Union itself stands ready to face up to this task in the time ahead.

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