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Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany to the OSCE

**OSCE MEETING ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RACIST,  
XENOPHOBIC AND ANTI-SEMITIC PROPAGANDA ON THE  
INTERNET AND HATE CRIMES**

Paris, 16–17 June 2004

**Statement by the German Delegation at Session 3,  
delivered by Mr. Jürgen Werner of the Federal Ministry of the Interior**

Madam Chairwoman,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The aim of our discussions is to examine opportunities provided by partnerships in combating racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism. In the light of German experience, I should like to emphasize the particular importance of such partnerships. This is especially true in view of the inadequacies of individual approaches, as described by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media in his introductory paper with regard to the use of filters in search engines. There is no simple way of protecting us against the growing number of extremist hate messages on the Internet. For that reason, the German approach combines a variety of ways that, taken altogether, contribute to tangibly limiting the dissemination of hatred via the Internet.

Alongside State-sponsored measures, including as a last resort the possibility of banning material from the Internet, self-regulatory measures also play an important role here. This is true not only of material falling under criminal law but also of certain aspects of the protection for the young, which in Germany is regulated under the law by the Youth Protection Act and the enabling provisions thereof. The aim of the *Freiwillige Selbstkontrolle Multimedia e.V.* (registered society for voluntary multimedia self-monitoring), which operates within the German economy, is to deal with the particular demands of the Internet. Its members are media associations and companies involved in the online economy. In addition to being bound by the legal framework, these entities commit themselves through a form of self-policing to a code of conduct.

In Germany today, extremist music disseminated via the Internet provides young people with their primary entry drug into the extremist scene. We cannot be indifferent to the spread of hatred on the Internet. Aspects of voluntary self-regulation, including the introduction of filters by service providers, were therefore discussed in detail during the international conference on “The Internet and the Changing Face of Hate” (*Die Verbreitung von Hass im Internet*) in Berlin on 26 and 27 June 2000. It was recommended that measures involving the use of filters should also be encouraged as a short-term solution.