

15 June 2007

ENGLISH only

Canadian Delegation to the
Organization for Security & Cooperation
in Europe



Délégation du Canada auprès de
l'Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération
en Europe

Delegation of Canada to the OSCE

Statement in Response to the Presentation by Ms. Anastasia Crickley, Personal Representative on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination also focusing on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians and Members of Other Religions

Mr. Gert Weisskirchen, Personal Representative on Combating Anti-Semitism

Mr. Omur Orhun, Personal Representative on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination Against Muslims

670th Meeting of the Permanent Council

14 June 2007

Canada welcomes Anastasia Crickley, Personal Representative on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination also focusing on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians and Members of Other Religions, Gert Weisskirchen, Personal Representative on Combating Anti-Semitism, and Omur Orhun, Personal Representative on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims to the Permanent Council today and thanks them for the presentation of their activities and work in 2007

We would also like to thank each of the three Personal Representatives for their hard work and input during the recent Bucharest Conference on Combating Discrimination and Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding held 7-8 June. Their knowledge and insight regarding anti-Semitism, discrimination against Muslims and harassment and violence towards Christians, as well as their roles as moderators, allowed for fruitful debate and useful outcomes from the various working sessions.

Canada recognizes and supports the work of the three Personal Representatives in facilitating the overall efforts of the OSCE to combat manifestations of hate and discrimination while promoting mutual respect and understanding. Therefore, we encourage them to work closely and effectively with each other, with ODIHR's Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department and with participating States.

We must continue to find effective ways to promote mutual respect and understanding, be it through programming, legislation, law enforcement, education, or public discourse and to ensure that the best practices highlighted in your work inform our policy and practices in an effective manner.

By doing so, we are also able to promote and respect human rights and fundamental freedoms for all within a framework of democratic values and the rule of law. This also promotes the overarching goal of security within the OSCE region.