



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

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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.