



REPRESENTATION PERMANENTE DE LA FRANCE
AUPRES DE L'OSCE

Working session 12– Tolerance and non-discrimination II
Statement by the French Delegation
(Tuesday, 30 September 2014)

The French Government has fully apprehended the rise in acts of intolerance in France over the past year. In the fight against intolerance, the French Government gives no precedence to any form of discrimination in particular. Whether they target Jews, Muslims, Christians, Roma people or homosexuals, all acts of intolerance and discrimination are condemned strongly by the French authorities and are the subject of the necessary legal action. Thus, as the Prime Minister reiterated on 26 July of this year, “There is no room in the French Republic for racist language and acts that target Muslims, Jews or homosexuals. They must be fought with determination”.

In addition to its solid legal framework, France has taken several steps to strengthen its tools to fight racism:

(1) in February 2013, France adopted an action programme to supplement the 2012-2014 national action plan against racism and anti-Semitism, establishing several education and outreach programmes alongside the enforcement aspect, including for the police, to break down prejudice; the Interministerial Delegation for the fight against racism and anti-Semitism (DILCRA), which is attached to the offices of the Prime Minister and the Interior Minister, is charged with implementing the Plan and has just launched a website called “apprenons à vivre ensemble” [Let us learn to live together] intended for professionals as well as the general public;

(2) France has also refined its statistical tools to measure the effectiveness of penal policies to combat racist acts: the Ministry of the Interior and the judicial institutions have disaggregated statistics on the origin of these acts. These are tools for internal use, aimed at better targeting the public response to rising intolerance. Thanks to the close dialogue established with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), it was possible to release this data when drafting the Annual Report on hate crimes;

(3) it has also established a tool to report racist hate speech online, with the aim of better combating the spread of this speech;

(4) lastly, it has established close cooperation with the representative bodies of the Muslim and Jewish communities in France in order to jointly create a monitoring of violence and to formulate the necessary protective measures concerning educational and religious establishments. A close and regular dialogue is also continuing with the representative Christian associations, as well as with the associations representing LGBTI persons, in order to better counter the attacks they come under.