



**Permanent Mission of Greece
to the OSCE**

Wohllebengasse 9/12, 1040 Vienna
Tel: + 43 1 503 39 30
Fax: +43 1 503 39 20 / 24
E-mail: greece.osce@chello.at

**OSCE Conference on anti-Semitism
EU intervention in session 3:
Education**

The EU recognises the importance of education not only as preparing Europe for a more tolerant and democratic future, but learning from the past in a positive and constructive manner. To ensure that society as a whole can benefit from ideas of tolerance access to education for all needs to be fully developed and best practice from educational instruction and curricula drawn that give relevance to the past and take us forward into the future. The Challenges of Europe's diverse and multi-cultural societies require more effective education tools. The European experience of the holocaust continues to shape many initiatives at the national level aimed at teaching human rights, training officials, preparing our youth to support and establish the fundamental values and freedoms that the EU is built on.

In addition, the EU supports the use of education through a number of programmes at the EU and national level. In the fields of education, vocational training and youth, the European Community has a number of programmes such as *Socrates*, *Leonardo da Vinci* and *Youth* aimed specifically at transmitting the democratic principles and respect for others which are fundamental values of Europe. By funding projects proposed by the players themselves, these programmes enable universities, teachers, educators and associations to organise trans-European actions against racism and xenophobia. The new generation of programmes running from 2000 - 2006 include racism and xenophobia as one of the priority areas.

Special attention has been given by the EU to the training of trainers. Thanks to cooperation between 15 universities, one from each Member State, a unique European Masters Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation has been created. This post-graduate study programme unites students, academics and experts from Europe as well as other parts of the world for the 11-month programme. The first such Masters Programme was created in Venice

in 1997 and has been followed by regional Human Rights Masters Programmes in Africa (based in Pretoria), the Mediterranean (based in Malta) and the Balkans (based in Sarajevo).

Ways to improve teaching and training on racism should be given emphasis at training colleges. Much has already been achieved with teaching on holocaust history and tolerance in school curricula, best practice needs greater dissemination. Educational establishments need to engage more with European level mechanisms in particular on identifying and exchanging information and best practice.

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