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ENGLISH only

**OSCE Conference on Tolerance and the Fight against Racism,  
Xenophobia, and Discrimination  
13 - 14 September 2004, Brussels**

**Delegation of the Czech Republic**

**Statement on the collecting of information and statistics on hate crimes**

## **Distinguish Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Let me briefly inform You about the collecting data on hate crimes in the Czech Republic as it is required in the Ministerial Council decision No. 4/03 on Tolerance and Non-discrimination.

It may be stated that the Czech Republic ranked among the countries that pay higher attention to the issues of extremism, racism, and xenophobia. Since 1998 the Ministry of the Interior, in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, has annually drawn up the Report on the Issues of Extremism in the Czech Republic. Currently a series of Reports describing the period from 1996/1997 until 2003 is available to the public (see [www.mvcr.cz](http://www.mvcr.cz)).

The situation in 1998, when the Ministry of the Interior decided to draw up Reports, was completely different from the current situation. Since 1998 the issue of extremism has been systematically covered. A strategy for combating the manifestations of extremism, racism and xenophobia has been gradually developed.

The issues in question have been focused on by relevant institutions working within the security forces, a range of preventative and repressive measures have been adopted, including measures ensuring the steady monitoring of both Czech and foreign extremist scenes and criminal manifestations of this serious social phenomenon. A number of the measures have been met on an ongoing basis and this issue is presently focused on at a repressive level as well as preventative level. The Czech legislative framework provides a sufficient number of legal instruments for prosecuting and punishing extremist crime and for monitoring manifestations of extremism and defending society against them.

The functional monitoring system of this phenomenon into which especially intelligence services and the Police of the Czech Republic are involved has been established. Information on manifestations of extremism abroad is provided also by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or embassies of the Czech Republic, The issue of combating extremism is universally and systematically covered in terms of organisation and personnel coverage both at the level of the Police Presidium of the Czech Republic and its specialised units, and at the level of Regional Administrations and District Directorates of the Police of the Czech Republic.

Despite the above-mentioned facts it is necessary to identify, on an ongoing basis, gaps in the work of state administrative bodies and to permanently seek for new ways and manners how to prevent manifestations and conduct of individuals demonstrating a racial, xenophobic or other extremist context. To that effect the acceptance of recommendations made by international organisations, permanently monitoring the situation in the Czech Republic, is important.

Thank you for Your attention.