

Warsaw, 10 October 2008

All  
Heads of Delegations  
of the OSCE participating States  
Vienna

Dear Ambassador,

On the occasion of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the anti-Semitic pogroms carried out by the Nazi regime during the night of 9<sup>th</sup> November 1938, the ODIHR would like to cordially invite you to an event entitled

**“Lessons learned?  
– Holocaust remembrance and combating anti-Semitism in 2008”  
10 November 2008, Hofburg, Vienna  
10:00 – 14:30**

The event is hosted by the Austrian Chairmanship of the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research in co-operation with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR).

Under the 2005 Ministerial Council Decision, OSCE participating States committed themselves to combat anti-Semitism in the OSCE region by ensuring that legal systems foster a safe environment free from anti-Semitic harassment, violence or discrimination. Under the same Decision, OSCE States also made commitments to develop educational programmes aimed at combating anti-Semitism and to promote remembrance of and education about the Holocaust.

The pogroms of 9<sup>th</sup> November 1938 marked a clear milestone in the history of the Holocaust. With almost a hundred Jews killed, 30,000 deported to concentration camps and countless synagogues burnt all over Germany including the newly annexed Austria, this night was one of the most significant outbursts of anti-Semitic violence in the modern era.

While these events and the Holocaust are now commemorated in an increasing number of countries all over the world, violent and non-violent manifestations of anti-Semitism, including Holocaust denial, continue to exist throughout the OSCE region. In recent years, international organisations have sought to address this challenge.

During the event, International Organisations (the Council of Europe, the Fundamental Rights Agency of the EU, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization - UNESCO) will present their efforts and their experiences in combating anti-Semitism and their contributions to promote remembrance of and education about the Holocaust.

I hope that you will be able to join us for this important event. Please confirm your kind participation to Mrs. Ingrid Klaus: [ingrid.klaus@bmeia.gv.at](mailto:ingrid.klaus@bmeia.gv.at); tel. +43501150.3300

Yours sincerely,

Janez Lenarčič  
Ambassador