

**CENTRAL COUNCIL
FOR GERMAN SINTI AND ROMANIES**

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Submission for the "OSCE Implementation Meeting"

on October 11, 2006, in Warsaw

Subject: National minorities/Romanies and Sinti

For an international conference against the "Dissemination of Hatred on the Internet" with participation of the media and provider industry

The Central Council for German Sinti and Romanies asks the OSCE Implementation Meeting for support. The government of the Federal Republic of Germany is requested to hold an international conference in Berlin against rightist extremist hate propaganda on the Internet. The purpose shall be to determine new cross-national fight measures.

One example is the racist German-speaking "freeyourmind" forum aiming against Sinti and Romanies as well as against Jews. The German Public Prosecution Service, having been engaged by the Central Council for German Sinti and Romanies in March 2006, now wrote that it was unable to block that forum as it is controlled from Germany via an operator company located abroad. The internet forum abuses the public-legal contract between the provincial government of Rhineland-Palatinate and the regional association of the Central Council to spread racist agitation with phrases such as "dirty gipsy vermin", "stealing mob" and "Jewry is criminality" as well as for calls to violence such as "Only force of arms will bring a change", "Red is the blood on the tarmac" and "The only solution - the Final Solution." There must be no capitulation to this neo-Nazi hate propaganda on the Internet and to the abuse of the Internet as a communication technology.

Hitherto, the realisation of an international conference has been rejected for no satisfying reason. In a letter to the Central Council, the Federal Ministry of Justice stated as an explanation for this refusal that it "feared" such a conference "would soon focus on abstract questions of principle." This is untenable as all important questions of principle have been cleared up since the first "International Conference Against Dissemination of Hatred on the Internet" which was organised by the Federal Government and the Simon-Wiesenthal-Center/Los Angeles in 2000. This conference in the year 2000 was attended by Ministers of Justice from many European countries as well as by members of the American Congress, FBI Directors, the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution, the Federal German Bar and also by the managements of media groups like Bertelsmann, AOL and Amazon. However, the objective of the past joint "Berlin Declaration" that "everything which is illegal offline shall be illegal online as well" was not reached in practice.