



**CONCLUSIONS BY THE CHAIR OF THE OSCE MEETING ON THE
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RACIST, XENOPHOBIC AND ANTI-SEMITIC
PROPAGANDA ON THE INTERNET AND HATE CRIMES**
(16 and 17 June, Paris)

In the Maastricht Decision on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination, participating States reaffirmed their commitment to promote tolerance and non-discrimination and to combat hate crimes, which may be fuelled by racist, xenophobic and anti-Semitic propaganda on the Internet. To further these goals, the participating States held a meeting in Paris on June 16-17 to initiate a broad debate on the possible link between racist, xenophobic and anti-Semitic propaganda on the Internet and hate crimes. Those attending included officials from governments of OSCE participating States, as well as representatives of non-governmental organizations and the internet industry.

During the Meeting, participants condemned racist, xenophobic and anti-Semitic propaganda, and noted that such propaganda is easily spread on the Internet. Participants also reaffirmed the importance of fully respecting the rights to freedom of information and expression, which is vital to democracy and in fact strengthened by the Internet.

Participants also reiterated their commitment to combat hate crimes and stressed the importance of promoting tolerance, mutual respect, dialogue, and understanding, including through the Media and the Internet.

Participants noted that access to the wide array of information and diverse set of opinions available on the Internet can serve to reduce ignorance and prejudice. Participants agreed to strengthen efforts to use the Internet as a tool for promoting tolerance, mutual respect and understanding and educating users about hate crimes and all forms of intolerance. All concurred that such education efforts should especially be directed toward young people and other targets of groups seeking to propagate racist, xenophobic and anti-Semitic ideas.

Those attending the Meeting also agreed to promote, where appropriate under existing national legislation, areas of additional cooperation, particularly voluntary initiatives by NGOs, religious associations and/or other groups directed toward researching and monitoring racist, xenophobic and anti-Semitic propaganda and incitement to violence on the Internet.

Participants expressed their appreciation for the work done by the office of the OSCE's Representative on Freedom of the Media in collecting updated data provided by participating States resulting from a questionnaire launched by the CiO of the OSCE.

Participants agreed to create opportunities, including during the annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, to promote sharing of best practices. Equally they agreed to foster exchanges directed toward identifying effective approaches for addressing the issue of racist, xenophobic and anti-Semitic propaganda on the Internet that do not endanger freedom of information and expression.

Participants also agreed that appropriate follow up should be considered at the Ministerial Meeting of the OSCE in Sofia, when planning further OSCE actions oriented toward promoting tolerance, mutual respect and understanding and combating Racism, Xenophobia and Anti-Semitism.