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4 July 2014

ENGLISH only

## **STATEMENT BY BÜRGERBEWEGUNG PAX EUROPA**

### **OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting**

#### **PROMOTION OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION: RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES AND OSCE COMMITMENTS**

##### **Session 2**

Vienna, July 4, 2014

The Annotated Agenda asks for ways “to keep political speech free while respecting the need to fight terrorism and violent hate speech.”

Pax Europa notes that there is a contradiction to be found here. With the introduction of the term “political speech”, those in power can impose preferential standards that disfavor as “hate speech” the non-conforming speech of those not in power.

Pax Europa considers this unacceptable. With respect to OSCE commitments to free speech, if freedom of expression is limited to what is not offensive, then there really is no freedom of expression.

Recommendation:

Pax Europa calls on OSCE participating States to uphold freedom of expression with as few restrictions as possible, which includes the repeal of any government-inspired yet facially neutral language on self-regulation of speech.