

DELEGATION OF TURKEY

ENGLISH only

**OSCE Meeting on the Relationship between Racist, Xenophobic, and Anti-Semitic Propaganda on the Internet and Hate Crimes
(Paris, 16-17 June 2004)**

Session III

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Participants,

Possible need for Internet regulation and ways and means for introducing it has been subject to a lively debate in Turkey, like elsewhere in Europe. Therefore, we find this meeting very timely and useful.

We have been following the discussions very carefully and have already taken down a number of recommendations to take back home to study. We have also noted the caution expressed with regards to the delicate line between the freedom of expression and hate speech.

There might be different approaches on what is legitimate presentation of diverging viewpoints and what is hate propaganda on Internet that incites violence. We should concentrate on developing objective criteria in this respect.

Certain degree of monitoring is necessary. But in the absence of commonly defined criteria, I think we have to be very careful in what we are filtering and should not interfere in the legitimate right of others to access information. One should avoid being subjective in determining what is harmful.

Having said that, we would like to particularly welcome today's focus on a rather positive aspect of Internet usage: Promoting tolerance on and through the Internet... As it has been underlined in the EU statement yesterday, education is the key in addressing the issue of intolerance in all its forms.

We should use the Internet, which can be abused as a vehicle to propagate racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and hatred, as a means to raise awareness against racist, anti-Semitic and hate propaganda. Individuals, particularly the young people should be equipped with the necessary knowledge to assess the websites critically and to make positive use of Internet.

Our evaluation is that, the series of three international conferences conducted by the OSCE will enable the participants to reach a common approach to the issue in question.

Thank you very much for your attention.