

Dealing with Fake News**Henrik Clausen, Wiener Akademikerbund**

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen.

I am Henrik Clausen from Denmark, representing Wiener Akademikerbund, where I have been a proud board member for several years.

Today, I shall focus on the topic of so-called "Fake News" that become smear campaigns and propaganda for war and hatred. Once started, they can be very difficult to stop.

Let me tell you the secret antidote to Fake News: The truth, as told by free citizens. No State arbiter of Right and Wrong is needed, just the right of anyone to express what they hold to be true.

One famous Fake News is the conspiracy theory that Russia hacked the American election. Oft-repeated in the old media, this story became propaganda for war and hatred, and led to severe international tension. Only new media analyzed the facts properly to conclude that the "Russian hacking" story had no substance.

At the Akademikerbund, we have deep confidence in man's desire for truth and reason. We believe in a "Free marketplace of ideas", that freedom is the right way to deal with Fake News. And we do need that the authorities protect this freedom, including the freedom to say silly or false things.

Thus, Akademikerbund recommends:

- That OSCE gives "Hate Speech" a clearer and legally workable definition.
- That OSCE scale back subsidies of old media to create a more level playing field.
- That OSCE ps' focus on protecting freedom of expression as such, for all topics.
- And finally, we call upon the OSCE Freedom of the Media Representative to clarify that publishing the truth can never constitute "hate speech", and never be a punishable offense.