

OSCE REVIEW CONFERENCE – Warsaw

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Working Session 8

**Statement by the European Jewish Congress**

Mr Moderator,

By the Berlin Declaration OSCE participating states bound themselves to combating antisemitism, the oldest of hate crimes.

In the subsequent Ministerial Decision No 9/09, and Permanent Council Decisions 607, on Combating Antisemitism, and 621 on Tolerance and the Fight Against Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, as well as other related commitments established by Ministerial Council Decisions between 2003 and 2007, participating states have renewed their commitments to combating antisemitism.

Mercifully, antisemitic incidents declined last year, the highest on record, but they still exceeded those of 2008. This year they will show very little diminution.

Moreover, antisemitic incitement, much of it conveyed via the internet and social networking sites, fuels this violence and goes unrecorded except by the member organizations of the International Network Against Cyberhate, and those Jewish communities with the capacity to monitor, as will be demonstrated at this evening's side event organized by the UK Foreign Office, Magenta Stichting and the Netherlands delegation to the OSCE.

In recent years, ODIHR and its Tolerance and Non Discrimination Department have demonstrated their expertise and capacity in assisting participating states to combat antisemitism, and we are grateful for that, but despite their public commitment, too many states fail to demonstrate any progress.

In particular, Mr Moderator, fewer than 20 participating states are capable of, or willing, to collect data on antisemitic crime and incidents. For others, it is because they there is insufficient financial help to establish educational programmes.

It is time, Mr Moderator, therefore that the role of the Tolerance and Non Discrimination Department be formally institutionalized and funded by the OSCE.

We therefore recommend that the Tolerance and Non Discrimination Department be formally integrated into the OSCE process at the December Summit meeting in Astana.