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## REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

**Statement by  
Ms Višnja Ljubičić  
Office for Human Rights Government of the Republic of Croatia**

**OSCE Review Conference on Human Dimension  
Forward looking discussions  
Session 2: Hate-motivated Crimes and Incidents  
Warsaw, 8 October 2010**

Thank you Ms. Chairperson,

Although Croatia has aligned itself with the EU statement, allow me to present a few words in our national capacity referred to Hate-motivated Crimes.

I would like to remind the attendees of the year 2005, when in Cordoba at the OSCE conference on anti-Semitism and other forms of intolerance, the "Law Enforcement Officer Programme on Combating Hate Crime" (The training of police officers to combat hate crimes) has been presented. A Pilot project of this program was implemented in 2005. in Spain and Hungary, and by the end of June 2006. also in the Republic of Croatia.

Therefore, regarding the determination according to the hate crime, the Republic of Croatia is one of the few countries in the world that has signed a *Memorandum of Understanding* with the OSCE / ODIHR in connection with the training of police officers (2006) and that maintains separate statistics for crimes that are motivated by hatred. Bearing in mind the importance of protecting human rights, in accordance with the commitments after the signing of the Memorandum, the Republic of Croatia pays great attention to the issue of hate crimes.

According to the above-mentioned, in 2006 the Republic of Croatia has amended the Criminal Code, by having defined in Article 89 § 36 the concept of hate crime.

Ms. Chairperson,

In accordance with the implementation of goals and measures deriving from the *National Programme for Protection and Promotion of Human Rights 2008-2011* and the *National Plan for Combating Discrimination 2008 – 2013*, regarding the effective implementation of anti-discrimination legislation in cases of hate crimes and their systematic monitoring and documentation, and in accordance with the guidelines of the European Union and the implementation of the OSCE / ODIHR Training Programme, the Government of the Republic of Croatia has founded in 2010 an interdepartmental body - a Working Group to monitor hate crimes, which appear and prosecute at the national level.

In accordance with international standards not only criminal acts that are qualified under Article 89. § 36. of the *Criminal Code* (which defines a hate crime) are being followed, but all other events (fouls and other events) that are found or reasonably suspected to have been motivated by hatred.

In order to achieve more efficient handling by the issue of hate crimes, the Government of the Republic of Croatia has adopted *guidelines for the conduct of police officers and the State Attorney's Office*, that precisely regulates the handling and collection of data on the issue of hate crimes. The main goal of data processing, collection and analysis is to prevent all incidents of this kind and to take adequate preventive and repressive measures, independently and together with other government agencies, citizens and civic associations, in the case of the crystallization of parameters that would indicate the increased vulnerability of certain groups in any manner and at any time or space.

Statistical data show that in 2009 - 32 crimes motivated by hatred toward a particular individual or group have been recorded. This number represents an increase compared to 2008, when for this type of crime 29 crimes have been registered.

With regard to the motives a slight decline in ethnically motivated crimes can be seen, so in 2009 there were 18 ethnically motivated crimes recorded, while in 2008 that number was 19. In comparison to other motives, in 2009 - 4 crimes were recorded in connection with sexual orientation, 2 in conjunction with a regional affiliation, 2 in connection with the origin of birth and 6 due to other characteristics (belonging to another subcultural group).

In 2008 there were about 4 offenses in connection with sexual orientation, 2 in conjunction with the glorification of Nazism / Fascism, 2 in connection with the origin at birth, 1 crime motivated by anti-Semitism and a criminal act because of other characteristics (belonging to another subcultural group).

Thank you.