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## 13th meeting of the Co-ordination Group between the Council of Europe and the OSCE (Strasbourg, 11 March 2011)

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### **Introduction**

The thirteenth meeting of the Co-ordination Group set up in December 2004 between the Council of Europe and the OSCE took place on 11 March 2011 at the Palais de l'Europe in Strasbourg.

The list of participants is set out in Appendix 1.

The report drawn up at the close of the meeting appears in Appendix 2.

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<sup>1</sup> This document has been classified restricted at the date of issue; it will be declassified in accordance with Resolution Res(2001)6 on access to Council of Europe documents.

**Appendix 1 - List of participants****COUNCIL OF EUROPE****Committee of Ministers****Chairmanship of the Ministers' Deputies:**

Amb. Daryal BATIBAY, *Permanent Representative of Turkey to the Council of Europe*

**Bureau of the Ministers' Deputies:**

Amb. Mykola TOCHYTSKYI, *Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the Council of Europe*

Amb. Eleanor FULLER, *Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the Council of Europe*

Amb. Margarita GEGA, *Permanent Representative of Albania to the Council of Europe*

Mr Marc WEY, *Deputy Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the Council of Europe*

Ms Evgenija ILIEVA, *Deputy to the Permanent Representative of "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" to the Council of Europe*

**Chairman of the Rapporteur Group on External Relations (GR-EXT):**

Amb. Joseph LICARI, *Permanent Representative of Malta to the Council of Europe*

**Council of Europe Focal Point****The protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities****The promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination**

Amb. Petter WILLE, *Permanent Representative of Norway to the Council of Europe*

**Council of Europe Secretariat**

Mr Childerik SCHAAPVELD, *Head of the Council of Europe Office in Vienna (appointed)*

Mr Thomas MARKERT, *Director, Secretary of the Venice Commission*

Mr Christophe POIREL, *Deputy Secretary of the Committee of Ministers*

Mr Denis BRIBOSIA, *Administrative officer, Secretariat of the Committee of Ministers*

Mr Jiří VOGL, *Head of Department of Relations with International Organisations and Non-Member States, Directorate of External Relations*

Ms Anguelina PROKHOROVA, *Administrative officer, Directorate of External Relations*

Mr Giovanni PALMIERI, *Head of Department of the European Commission against racism and intolerance (ECRI) and of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM)*

Mr Stephanos STAVROS, *Executive Secretary of the European Commission against racism and intolerance (ECRI)*

Mrs Charlotte ALTENHONER-DION, *Administrative officer, Secretariat of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities*

Mr Giancarlo CARDINALE, *Adviser to the Commissioner for Human Rights*

Mrs Simone KLINGE, *Administrative officer, Secretariat of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages*

Mrs Camille LARENE, *Administrative officer, Secretariat of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages*

Mrs Yulia PERERVA, *Administrative officer, Division for Citizenship and Human Rights Education*

Mrs Carole REICH, *Programme Manager "Remembrance of the Holocaust", Manager "Intercultural Exchanges", Coordinator "Anti-discrimination Campaign"*

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## **OSCE**

### **OSCE Troika**

#### **Lithuania (Chairperson-in-Office)**

Amb. Renatas NORKUS, *Head of Delegation, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Lithuania to the OSCE*

Amb. Gediminas ŠERKŠNYS, *Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the Council of Europe*

#### **Ireland (Incoming Chair)**

Mr Frank COGAN, *Head of Task Force, OSCE Chairmanship, Department for Foreign Affairs*

Mr Brian GLYNN, *Deputy Head of Task Force, Department for Foreign Affairs*

Ms Martina FEENEY, *Deputy Head of Mission, Permanent Mission of Ireland to the OSCE*

#### **Kazakhstan (Outgoing Chair)**

Amb. Kairat ABDRAKHMANOV, *Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the OSCE*

Mr Didar TEMENOV, *First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the OSCE*

Mr Zhanibek LESBEKOV, *First Secretary, Mission of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Council of Europe*

### **OSCE Focal Points**

#### **The protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities**

Ms Ilze BRANDS-KEHRIS, *Director, Office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities*

#### **The promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination**

Ms Floriane HOHENBERG, *Head, Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department, OSCE/ODIHR*

### **OSCE Secretariat**

Mr Alexander KREZ, *External Co-operation Officer*

## Appendix 2 – Report by the Chairs

1. The thirteenth meeting of the Co-ordination Group between the Council of Europe and the OSCE took place on 11 March 2011 at the Council of Europe headquarters in Strasbourg. The meeting was chaired by Ambassador Daryal Batibay, Chairman of the Ministers' Deputies of the Council of Europe, and co-chaired by Ambassador Renatas Norkus, Chairman of the OSCE Permanent Council. The OSCE delegation included representatives of the OSCE Troika, of the two OSCE focal points and representatives of the Secretariat. The Council of Europe delegation included representatives of the Bureau of the Ministers' Deputies, the Council of Europe focal point, the Chairman of the Rapporteur Group on External Relations and representatives of the Secretariat.

2. The Group reviewed the progress of co-operation between the two organisations in recent months concerning the protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities and the promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination, in the light of the joint reports presented by the Council of Europe and the OSCE focal points in the two areas.

3. Regarding the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, the Group welcomed the continuation of regular and pragmatic co-operation from exchanges of information to consultations and joint ventures, including joint publications. Particular emphasis was placed on co-operation in the context of assistance provided to Governments in the elaboration and implementation of laws regulating the use of majority and minority languages.

The Group also praised the good co-operation between the High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) and the Commissioner for Human Rights with respect to Roma migration in Europe.

Looking ahead, the Group encouraged the further development of co-operation, in particular in the field of civic and intercultural education, which can greatly contribute to promoting peaceful interethnic relations, and in relation to monitoring activities.

4. In the field of promoting tolerance and non-discrimination, the Group welcomed the sustained co-operation and the joint endeavours of both organisations in the following areas: combating hate crime, combating anti-Semitism, combating racism and xenophobia, combating intolerance and discrimination against Roma and Sinti, Muslims, Christians and other groups, intercultural dialogue and education for democratic citizenship, and freedom of religion or belief.

The Group also valued the regular opportunities that ECRI and ODIHR provide for each other to offer feedback and input on tools, policy recommendations and reports in order to enable each organisation to contribute their expertise at an early stage in the development process.

High-level events have also provided an important opportunity to send strong messages concerning the fight against intolerance and discrimination, such as the joint statement made on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on 19 March 2010.

With regard to future activities, the Group welcomed the fact that increased co-operation is foreseen regarding review and preparation of legislation and guidelines in the field of freedom of religion. The Group also welcomed that ECRI and ODIHR would continue to co-operate closely on a range of issues, in particular with ODIHR following-up on ECRI country reports and ECRI taking into consideration the input of ODIHR when preparing country reports.

5. The Group reiterated the necessity of sustaining the efforts that had been undertaken over the last years to ensure co-operation between the two organisations. The importance of a constant flow of information on their respective activities and projects was reaffirmed. This will allow to identify at early planning stages the potential areas for co-operation and to keep the risks of unnecessary duplication to a minimum, bearing in mind the differences between the two organisations regarding their membership, mandates and working methods.

6. In conclusion, the Group decided to meet in Vienna in the second half of 2011 to examine co-operation in areas of the fight against terrorism and the fight against trafficking in human beings. Finally, it was recalled that this report will be submitted to the member states of the Council of Europe and the participating States of the OSCE as soon as possible.