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MEDIA ADVISORY

BERLIN TO HOST OSCE CONFERENCE ON ANTI-SEMITISM

VIENNA, 29 March 2004 - A two-day international OSCE Conference on anti-Semitism will be held in Berlin on 28 and 29 April 2004, at the invitation of Germany's Foreign Minister, Joschka Fischer. It will focus on the issue of anti-Semitism in the OSCE area, with sessions discussing the roles of government, civil society, education and media in combating prejudice and in promoting tolerance.

The Ministerial Council of the 55 OSCE States, at its last meeting in December, decided to follow up the work started at the first OSCE Conference on Anti-Semitism, held in Vienna on 19 and 20 June 2003, and welcomed the offer by Germany to host a second OSCE event on this issue.

- The entire conference, which will be held in the German Foreign Ministry, Werderscher Markt 1, Berlin, is open to the media. A temporary press centre will be set up inside the Ministry.
- Access to the conference premises for media representatives will be by special press card, obtainable only by prior accreditation. Please note that media representatives already accredited to the Federal Government Press and Information Office (BPA) must also apply for special accreditation.
- The accreditation process will take place between 5 and 23 April. Late applications and on-the-spot accreditation cannot be processed. For this reason we recommend that media representatives apply as early as possible.
- Accreditation forms and other information on technical questions will be posted on 5 April on the OSCE Anti-Semitism Conference website <http://www.osce.org/events/conferences/antisemitism2004/> as well as on the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs website <http://www.diplo.de/www/de/index.html>
- The special press cards can be collected on Tuesday 27 April from 9.00 to 12.00 and from 13.00 to 20.00 at the BPA, Reichstagerufer 14, 10117 Berlin, on presentation of both a valid press card and identification document.
- During the conference, the press centre will offer work spaces with ISDN and analogue phone connections, use of which is free of charge. As PCs will not be provided, journalists should bring their own laptops and mobile phones to the press centre.

- Events that are not accessible directly for reasons of space will be broadcast into the press centre via closed circuit TV. Plenary sessions of the conference will be simultaneous translated between the six official OSCE languages (English, French, German, Italian, Russian, and Spanish).

- For security reasons access to the temporary press centre in the Foreign Ministry will only be possible via the BPA (address: see point 5). A shuttle service will run between the BPA and the Foreign Ministry.

- In order to arrive in time for the opening of the conference in the Foreign Ministry, media representatives need to present themselves for a security check at the BPA at the following times:

- Wednesday 28 April (first day) between 6.00 and 8.30

- Thursday 29 April (second day) between 6.00 and 7.15

- Access to the plenary hall for photo-journalists and cameramen is limited for reasons of space and will be subject to pooling. Stand-up backdrops for photo opportunities and TV interviews will be set up in areas close to the conference hall.

- All participants should take into account the fact that high-level security measures will be operating throughout the conference.