



General Assembly Third Committee
28 October 2011
Item 67: Racism
Statement delivered by
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Delegation of the European Union

Check against delivery

Mr Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union.

The Candidate Countries, Turkey, Croatia*, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia, and Georgia align themselves with this declaration.

Mr Chair,

1. The European Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. These values are common to the European Union Member States in a society in which pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men prevail. The European Union defends and promotes these values in its external action.
2. The European Union rejects and condemns all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and similar types of intolerance, including discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, which are incompatible with the values the EU is founded upon.
3. People across the world face this kind of intolerance every day. We can only fight it successfully if we take a consistently tough stance at all levels. There is no room for complacency, including in Europe.
4. Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance cannot be tolerated and must be fought, in particular acts of violence or hatred and incitement thereto, targeting individuals or groups of individuals. Particular attention should be paid to persons belonging to groups who are often in a vulnerable situation such as women, children, persons with disabilities, LGBT persons and indigenous peoples, who in

* Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

many cases face multiple discrimination. The EU is convinced that the promotion and protection of all human rights, including freedom of expression, play a vital role: Free flow of ideas, dissemination of information on human rights and on human rights violations as well as free media contribute to human rights education and promote a culture of tolerance.

Mr Chair,

5. In addition to national legislation, the EU has introduced and initiated a broad set of measures to combat different forms and manifestations of racism and xenophobia in Europe. These include legislation, awareness-raising activities, data collection, and the provision of financial support to civil society's projects, such as those designed to combat racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism; to implement the principle of non-discrimination; to protect children from racist and xenophobic digital content; and to promote cultural diversity
6. Under EU legislation, EU Member States are required to introduce laws to prohibit racial discrimination through, for example, penalising the intentional public incitement to violence or hatred on the basis of race, colour, religion, descent or national or ethnic origin, prohibiting discrimination on the grounds of racial or ethnic origin in many aspects of everyday life, including employment, education, healthcare, and housing, as well as on multiple grounds specifically in the field of employment, banning incitement to hatred in audiovisual media services and the promotion of discrimination in audiovisual commercial communications, as well as prohibiting discrimination at border controls.
7. Furthermore, we are also committed to eliminating racism and racial discrimination of the Roma people and to promoting and protecting their rights as well as and their integration. Within the EU Framework for national Roma integration strategies up to 2020, Member States are expected to address specific needs of Roma in four key areas - education, employment, health and housing. Member States are committed to build or to develop their national strategies taking into account the size of Roma population on their territory and their starting points, as the situation of Roma differs from country to country.
8. Since its foundation in 2007, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights continues to collect, analyse and disseminate objective and comparable data on various fundamental rights issues, including racism and xenophobia. This Agency builds upon the work undertaken by the European Monitoring Centre in Racism and Xenophobia, established in 1998.

Mr Chair,

9. The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) is the universal foundation for efforts to prevent, combat and eradicate racism. The European Union calls on all states that have not yet ratified or fully implemented the Convention to do so.

Mr Chair,

10. The EU takes note of the work of the Special Rapporteur, Mr Mugai, on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia and related intolerance. In a year marked by the horrific events in Norway, We reaffirm our commitment to counter all extremist political parties, groups and extremist ideological movements. We share the concern expressed by the Special Rapporteur on the increased use of the internet to promote and disseminate racist ideas by individuals and groups of individuals closely linked to extremist movement but also the call on States to fully implement the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which guarantee the rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association.

Mr Chair,

11. Ten years after the 2001 World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, the EU remains fully committed to the principal objective of the 2001 Durban Conference.
12. Let me finish by recalling once more our firm commitment to fight all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and similar types of intolerance, including discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. This commitment is backed up by a policy of concrete action including legislation, awareness-raising, collecting data, and providing financial support to civil society's projects.

Thank you Mr Chair.

