

**STATEMENT BY MR. VALERY ENGEL,
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RIGHTS MOVEMENT WORLD WITHOUT NAZISM, AT THE
OSCE HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON TOLERANCE AND
NON-DISCRIMINATION (INCLUDING HUMAN RIGHTS
YOUTH EDUCATION ON TOLERANCE AND
NON-DISCRIMINATION)**

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Plenary session 5: The role of human rights youth education in promoting mutual understanding and respect for diversity in accordance with the existing OSCE commitments

It is no secret to anyone that nowadays, the main environment that forms the world view of young people is the Internet. Today, the Internet is an environment that is not subject to any form of control, where it is possible to disseminate and discuss any views or ideologies. Nationalism is no exception. This refers to both dedicated sites with Nazi content and to social networks that fail to address the problem of the spread of hatred. Unfortunately, almost all popular social networks, including Facebook and LiveJournal, fall into this category.

On the other hand, the Internet is a marvellous achievement of the free world, without censorship (aside from in respect to the most heinous of crimes, such as the dissemination of child pornography).

The question arises: how can freedom of speech be maintained and children be protected from provocative Nazi propaganda that poisons their minds?

My proposal is that a seminar for Internet experts be held under the auspices of the OSCE, through the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and with the involvement of the Representative on Freedom of the Media, in order to assess how widespread hate ideology is in the media and communications platforms. It is important to invite as experts both the owners and operators of social networks and the Internet users who are responsible for the real content on such platforms.

This seminar will allow us to carry out a better analysis of the current situation and to understand to what extent hate ideology is present online. It would also make it possible to assess the feasibility of, for example, creating some kind of pilot form of self-regulation

amongst users to limit the spread of neo-Nazism, racism and aggressive nationalism in the media.

We carried out a short content analysis on this topic and found that, theoretically speaking, a significant number of users support the idea of distributing and signing a convention against online hatred, which would serve as a voluntary limit for users on the spread of hate campaigns on the Internet. In other words, this would be a kind of self-imposed limit or self-regulation for Internet users with the aim of limiting the spread of hate online. I believe that an OSCE expert assessment would provide full clarity on this issue and help non-governmental organizations to plan specific measures to combat this ill.