

Delegation of France

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR FRANÇOIS ALABRUNE,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF FRANCE TO THE OSCE, AT  
THE 947th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

11 April 2013

**Regarding the regional conference on the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual  
and transgender persons in Europe held in Paris on 26 March 2013**

In co-operation with the European Commission, France invited to Paris on 26 March representatives from the 56 members States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, from civil society and from regional and international organizations to discuss issues relating to the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) persons in Europe. Several ministers from the OSCE region were represented as were the Ukrainian Chairmanship and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

This conference was part of a worldwide process through which the countries committed to combating discrimination and violence against LGBT persons decided early in 2013 to organize wide-ranging consultations on these issues on several continents. Regional conferences have also been organized for the Americas in Brasilia and for Asia in Kathmandu. The conclusions drawn from these activities will be presented officially at a world conference in Oslo to be held on 15 and 16 April 2013.

Without going into detail regarding these conclusions, I should like to emphasize the following four points highlighted during the work of the conference:

- The disturbing persistence of numerous acts of violence and discrimination against LGBT persons in Europe. Acts of discrimination and violence take place in all public and private spheres. Many hate crimes and murders are committed every day in Europe;
- The need to take into account the specific difficulties facing transgender and intersex persons;
- The need to establish national comprehensive strategies aimed at combating prejudice in different fields;
- The need to take action at the regional level to ensure respect for the rights of all persons.

Just as in the case of the European Union, which has made its views known on this matter on numerous occasions, we believe that the commitments undertaken by the participating States within the OSCE regarding non-discrimination and fundamental freedoms must apply to everyone, including lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transsexuals. We are concerned by the manifestations of intolerance and discrimination affecting LGBT persons in many OSCE participating States, including homophobic attacks, which take place in my country as well. We must be prepared to carry out the commitments undertaken by our ministers to combat all forms of intolerance and protect the fundamental rights of all our citizens without discrimination.