

NO HATE PARLIAMENTARY ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

December 2016 – May 2017



” The Assembly invites national parliaments to mobilise against hate speech and all forms of racism and intolerance, in particular through participating in initiatives such as the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance”, Resolution 2144 (2017)



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Editorial

“The risk of a backlash is always present”



All those who are committed to defending and promoting human rights know it only too well: achievements in this area should never be taken for granted. The risk of a backlash is always present. This certainly applies to the fight against racism, intolerance and hate speech. Today hatred is pervasive in social media and elsewhere on the Web. Populism is on the rise in Europe and even some politicians indulge in derogatory speech that is unacceptable. The Council of Europe works relentlessly to counter these threats by monitoring the situation, setting relevant standards and raising awareness. The No Hate Parliamentary Alliance brings together parliamentarians who share the same commitment to fighting this scourge. In recent months, we have dug deeper into issues including discrimination based on ethnic

origin, antisemitism, conspiracy theories and declining confidence in the media. Our work is not over. Personally, in the near future, I will focus on the discrimination that migrants and refugees face in Europe. In Italy, I launched an initiative to give a name to those who lost their lives while trying to reach our continent. Many of them have never been identified: I consider this an insult to human dignity.

Milena Santerini

General Rapporteur on combating racism and intolerance, and Coordinator of the Alliance

“We must talk about Afrophobia to prevent it becoming commonplace”



Paris, 5 December 2016

■ “While some types of ‘neo-racism’ based on supposedly cultural grounds do exist in Europe, traditional racism based on skin colour has never disappeared from our societies”, said Milena Santerini (Italy, SOC), Coordinator of Alliance, at the opening of a hearing on violence and discrimination on the grounds of ethnic origin in Paris, on 5 December 2016.

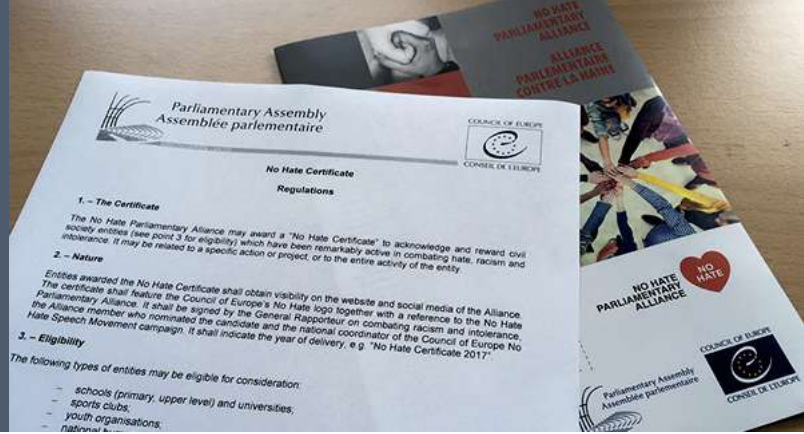
The Alliance supports parliamentarians in Bosnia and Herzegovina



Sarajevo, 15 December 2016

■ A seminar on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination by Countering Hate Speech: the Role of Parliamentarians was held at the National Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo on 15 December 2016, in the framework of the 2015-2017 Council of Europe Action Plan for the country. The Alliance’s road map includes its participation in national seminars such as this one, aiming on the one hand to take stock of the situation in specific Council of Europe member states as regards hatred, racism and intolerance, and on the other hand to discuss measures to counter these phenomena.

The regulations of the No Hate Certificate are available on the Alliance's website



The Alliance launches the No Hate Certificate

■ Co-operating with civil society has been integral to the operation of the Alliance from the start. Representatives of civil society have been valuable partners in understanding the reality of hatred, racism and intolerance in Europe today.

■ The Alliance has now established a way to acknowledge the role of these actors in supporting its cause, and to promote and make visible the principles enshrined in the Alliance's charter. Schools, sports clubs, youth and human rights non-governmental organisations, as well as online blogs, pages and news outlets, may be granted a No Hate Certificate which would commend their contribution to fighting hatred and intolerance in Europe. Candidates will be nominated by Alliance members in close co-operation with the No Hate Speech Movement campaign of the Council of Europe's Youth Department, and by national committees of the campaign itself.


■ "Certified" entities will be featured on the website and social media of the Alliance and the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination of the Parliamentary Assembly. They will be encouraged to work closely with the Alliance – it is hoped that the certificate will be only the first step in this direction.

Join forces against cyberdiscrimination and online hate



Marit Maj

■ "Online hate is a reflection of hate in our societies, and its importance must under no circumstances be played down. It is crucial therefore that strategies to eliminate hate in the online environment acknowledge and tackle the hatred and intolerance in people's hearts and minds," said Marit Maj (Netherlands, SOC), when presenting her report on the issue which was adopted by the Assembly on 25th January 2017. In its Resolution 2144 (2017) on Ending cyberdiscrimination and online hate, the Assembly also "invites national parliaments to mobilise against hate speech and all forms of racism and intolerance, in particular through participating in initiatives such as the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance".



Gabriela Heinrich,
initiator of the conference
in Berlin

Conference on online hate,
conspiracy theories and decli-
ning confidence in the media,
Berlin, 13 February 2017

Berlin: conference on the rise of online hate and conspiracy theories

#NoHateSpeech

■ There is an increasing number of instances of online hate speech and conspiracy theories. What is the reason for this? Who are the victims? Does online hate speech give rise to real violence against particular groups? What dangers do conspiracy theories pose? Does this have an impact on the public perception of journalism and are the media currently experiencing a crisis of trust? Should politicians be coming up with counter measures?

■ These questions lay at the heart of a conference in Berlin on 13 February 2017 organised by the Alliance in conjunction with the German Parliament, on the initiative of Gabriela Heinrich (Germany, SOC). The event gathered together nearly 140 participants, including government representatives, policy makers, civil society and media.

After the event, Ms Heinrich answered our questions:

■ What are your impressions of the conference?

As we brought together diverse topics — online hate, conspiracy theories and declining confidence in the media — we were able to gather a wide range of perceptions. These issues are closely associated with each other and the conference showed that adopting an interdisciplinary approach is not only reasonable but even crucial. Another conclusion that could be drawn was that we are still not as aware of these phenomena as we should be. Online hate, conspiracy theories and declining confidence in the media are complex, Europe-wide problems, and this conference was one of the first steps in an important process.

■ How do you believe parliamentarians should act with regard to online hate, conspiracy theories and declining confidence in the media?

■ *We parliamentarians play a key role as intermediaries between the people and the government, so in my opinion we must focus our efforts on raising awareness in two directions: we have to stay in close contact with our fellow citizens, while taking political measures to address these issues. Media competence is crucial, as we all need to have the skills to differentiate between facts and fake news. Moreover, all actions and expressions which are prohibited should also be prohibited on the internet by law. We have to manage that.*

■ Why do you believe it is important to be part of the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance?

As I said at the beginning, these phenomena are Europe-wide, and so the Council of Europe is the ideal host for this Alliance as we also have member states that are not part of the European Union. We must all work together, and work together in the same direction. The conference has again demonstrated how important it is to bring together different people from different countries, with different backgrounds and experiences, and to promote successful dialogue and exchange.

A manifesto for keeping the internet free of racial hatred



Meeting of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, Paris, 20 March 2017

■ “The internet must become a safe public and private space for open and pluralist debates, where freedom of expression is fully respected” declared members of the Committee on Equality and Non-discrimination of the Assembly, on the eve of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21 March). “The internet should be a platform for opportunity rather than a vehicle for danger, fear and hate.” Member states, civil society and other relevant players were urged to take measures to foster a common culture for the responsible use of the internet. The members of the committee concluded that “governments and parliaments must enact strong laws to regulate online content and promote ethical conduct, providing for proper complaint systems and criminal sanctions to ensure that perpetrators are brought to account”.

Countering the risk that hate speech leads to repeating History



Meeting of the Alliance, Paris, 21 March 2017

■ During their meeting in Paris on 21 March 2017, members of the Alliance recognised the role of places of remembrance and cultural institutions in combating antisemitic, anti-Roma and Islamophobic rhetoric, and especially anti-refugee and anti-migrant rhetoric, and agreed that preserving the memory of the times when prejudice turned into discrimination, violence and even genocide is one of the many ways of fighting against hatred today.

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” Today, more than ever, I invite national parliaments, political leaders and citizens to mobilise against anti-Gypsyism and all forms of racism and intolerance”, declared Ms Santerini on International Roma Day (8 April 2017)

“We must break the cycle of ignorance and anti-Gypsyism”



Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CD), Chairperson of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination and Tobias Zech (Germany, EPP/CD), Rapporteur, at the adoption of Resolution 2153 (2017) on promoting the inclusion of Roma and Travellers, Strasbourg, January 2017

— “Discrimination against and exclusion of Roma and Travellers must give way once and for all to recognition and inclusion” said Milena Santerini, Coordinator of the Alliance, on the occasion of International Roma Day (8 April). “On this day of commemoration, we should commit ourselves to engaging actively in promoting better knowledge of the culture and history of Roma and Travellers and improving intercultural coexistence.”

— “As the Assembly underlined in its recent Resolution 2153 (2017) on promoting the inclusion of Roma and Travellers, nobody’s life chances should be determined by their ethnic origin,” Ms Santerini stressed.

— “Integrating Roma and Travellers is in everyone’s interests, and more and more states are adopting strategies to this effect. But for such initiatives to have a lasting impact, it is crucial to fight anti-Gypsyism and combat prejudices and stereotypes,” she concluded.

Strasbourg,
24 April 2017



The Alliance participates in a seminar about young people and remembrance

■ “As a German, I feel particular responsibility towards the culture of remembrance” declared Gabriela Heinrich at the opening of a seminar about young people and remembrance in Europe, held in Strasbourg on 24 April 2017. “My generation grew up with a culture of guilt, and we know — or should know — about the past. When I was in Leningrad as a student thirty years ago, I visited the State Memorial Museum of the Defense and Siege of Leningrad. I remember that moment very clearly. It was a moment of consciousness. It is important to encourage such moments”. Mentioning in particular the many places of commemoration which raise awareness of human rights in her own city, Nuremberg, Ms Heinrich continued: “the big question that always arises when someone approaches the issue of remembrance is: how could this happen? What was it that fascinated entire populations and led them to lose their empathy and act against other people and human rights? We have a duty to ask this question over and over again. This is one of the reasons why I am active in fighting against hate on the internet. The internet gives us opportunities, but also responsibilities! Before we accept opinions that will guide our future actions, we must always ask ourselves: is this right?”

Italian students visit Strasbourg for their project on hate speech

■ “First of all, we learned how to work in a team. Teamwork is useful for fighting against bullying and hate speech.”

■ A group of 16 students, 6 girls and 10 boys, attending the graphic design class at Ferrini Franzosini technical school in Verbania, won the “No Hate National Contest” on cyberbullying launched by the Italian Ministry of Education. Under the supervision of their graphic design teacher, Maria Chiara Tomasi, they accepted the challenge because they realised the importance of raising awareness among young people about bullying and hate speech. For two months, they spent eight hours per week working on their project and learning about human rights in general, a subject they felt was too often overlooked. They say, “it was a challenge to transfer an abstract concept into real life”. Organising an awareness day on bullying, including fighting against hate on social networks, was an opportunity for the students to explain to other teenagers how to defend themselves against bullies. However, they “always hope that young boys and girls won’t need [their] advice. In fact, [they] hope that they will not need to fight against bullies.”



Winning team of the No Hate Speech Italian National Contest,
Strasbourg, 24 April 2017

Meet our new members!



Killion Munyama
(Poland, EPP/DC)



Patrícia Riberaygua
(Andorra, ALDE)



Jan Škoberne
(Slovenia, SOC)



Goran Beus Richeberg
(Croatia, ALDE)



Cécile Kyenge
(Italy, European Parliament)



Jean-Pierre Grin
(Switzerland, ALDE)



Marram Alheisa
(Jordan, Partner for Democracy)

Beyond borders

” Jordan is a diverse country in which several communities and groups, as well as over a million refugees, coexist peacefully. We should never cease to prevent and combat intolerance in whatever form it may present itself, as it undermines human dignity and rights and ultimately the possibility of living together. As a female politician and the first woman to represent my tribe within the Jordanian Parliament, I am familiar with the barriers that women in politics face, which include prejudice and stereotyping, often bordering on hate speech. I’m proud to be a member of the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance and grateful for the opportunity to share views and practices in this area with colleagues from Europe and beyond.”

Marram Alheisa
(Jordan, Partner for Democracy)

Our Twitter account is buzzing!

Cécile Kyenge @ckyenge

Combattre le discours de haine c'est réitérer nos valeurs de liberté et de coexistence
#NoHateSpeech #Berlin



RETWEETS 8 LIKES 12

02:55 - 13 Nov 2017

PACE Equality @PACE_Equality

@GaHeinrich closes the conference by encouraging everyone to spread the good word! Thanks for following! #NoHateSpeech #Berlin #Bundestag



RETWEETS 4 LIKES 5

9:24 am - 13 Feb 2017

PACE Equality @PACE_Equality

We need to challenge assumptions - hate speech has a silencing effect. @aliceeire



RETWEETS 9 LIKES 7

9:09 am - 13 Feb 2017

PACE Equality @PACE_Equality

Fundamental freedoms must not be taken for granted and be part of everyday education @Anne_Brasseur ambassador for #NoHateSpeech movement



RETWEETS 10 LIKES 5

6:13 am - 13 Feb 2017

PACE Equality @PACE_Equality

From #Berlin: Timely conference on #NoHateSpeech #Conspiracy theories and #media has just kicked-off! Follow us here!



RETWEETS 9 LIKES 10

1:22 am - 13 Feb 2017

PACE Equality @PACE_Equality

@GaHeinrich met Norway's @integreringsdir : impressed by the political will and resources to support #migrants' integration in Norway



RETWEET 1 LIKE 1

11:48 am - 16 Apr 2017 From Oslo, Norge

PACE Equality @PACE_Equality

@nohate_speech seminar on #Antisemitism #hatespeech: thanks for opportunity to meet activists and present #PACE No HateAlliance's work!



RETWEETS 6 LIKES 4

9:16 am - 11 May 2017

PACE Equality @PACE_Equality

PACE no hate alliance meets today in Paris to discuss discrimination based on ethnic origin with @ckyenge @ENAREurope & Mr Pham



RETWEETS 7 LIKES 12

5:27 am - 5 Dec 2016

PACE Equality @PACE_Equality

On the eve of #IDERD @PACE_Equality members call to keep the internet free from racial hatred #FightRacism #21March assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/News/Ne ...



RETWEETS 6 LIKES 5

7:46 am - 20 Mar 2017

PACE Equality @PACE_Equality

Intl #RomaDay: Break the cycle of ignorance & #antigypsyism, says @PACE_News rapp ag #racism @MilenaSanterini assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/News/Ne ...



RETWEETS 8 LIKES 5

5:23 am - 7 Apr 2017

PACE Equality @PACE_Equality

PaulShapiro @HolocaustMuseum The misuse and careless use, for political games, of words and labels are always a terrible mistake



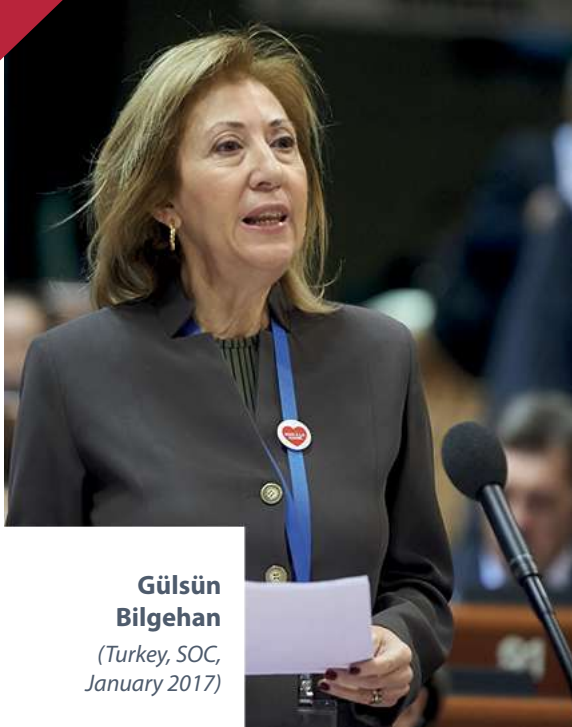
RETWEETS 6 LIKES 10

8:16 am - 21 Mar 2017

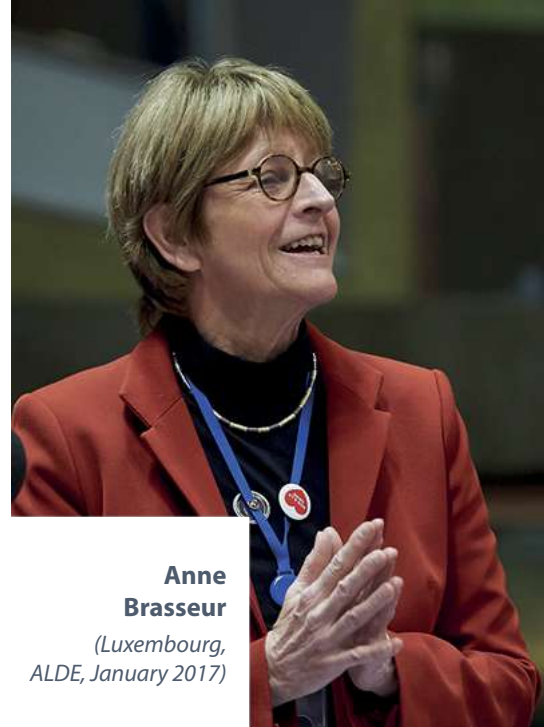
*Ready,
steady, tweet!*

Share your photos sporting the Alliance's badge and poster!

Our members seen wearing our badge!



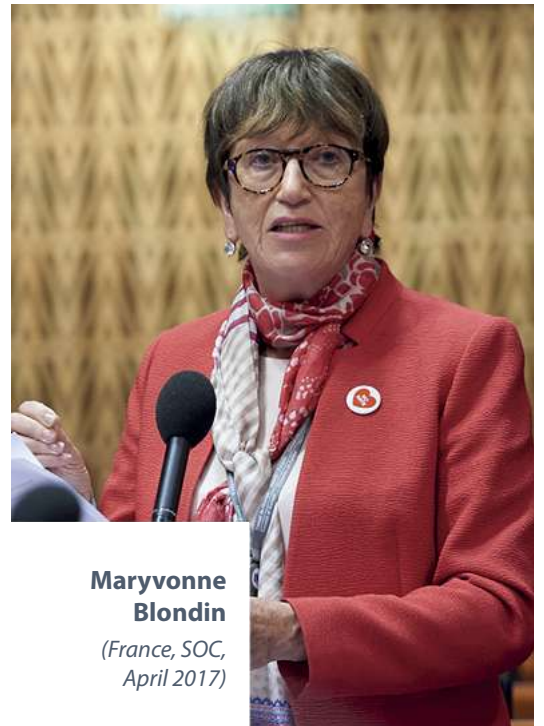
Gülsün Bilgehan
(Turkey, SOC,
January 2017)



Anne Brasseur
(Luxembourg,
ALDE, January 2017)



Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo
(Monaco, EPP/CD,
April 2017)



Maryvonne Blondin
(France, SOC,
April 2017)

Coming up in 2017!

- ▶ **22 July** – European Day for Victims of Hate Crime
- ▶ **2 August** – European Roma Holocaust Memorial Day
- ▶ **9 November** – International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism
- ▶ **8-10 November** – World Forum for Democracy – Is Populism a Problem?
- ▶ **Autumn** – Seminar for Parliamentarians in Albania on Fighting Racism, Hatred, Intolerance and Discrimination

An Alliance of parliamentarians committed to taking open, firm and proactive stands against racism, hatred and intolerance, no matter what form they take or on what they are based.

Find out more: http://website-pace.net/en_GB/web/apce/no-hate-alliance

 Follow us on Twitter: https://twitter.com/PACE_Equality

Contact us: nohatealliance@coe.int

This newsletter was prepared thanks to the German voluntary contribution to the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance.

www.coe.int

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, 28 of which are members of the European Union. The Parliamentary Assembly, consisting of representatives from the 47 national parliaments, provides a forum for debate and proposals on Europe's social and political issues. Many Council of Europe conventions originate from the Assembly, including the European Convention on Human Rights.

