

**Remarks of the Head of the OSCE Mission to Moldova Claus Neukirch  
at the Holocaust Remembrance Round Table  
in Parliament of the Republic of Moldova  
29 January 2019**

*President of the Parliament Candu,  
Vice-President of the Knesset Ms. Poloskov,  
Minister Ulianovschi, Minister Babuc,  
Excellences  
representatives of the Jewish community,*

it is an honour to have the floor at this round table, which is part of the entire week of remembrance of victims of Holocaust throughout the country, including the towns on the left bank of the Dniester/Nistru, which should be mentioned now.

The commemoration of the Holocaust victims is mournful and painful but also necessary, and at the same time it is a moment of hope. The step taken recently by the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova and by the Government gives more hope that this commemoration will help us build a future, an inclusive society based on tolerance, which has learned the lessons of history, and which will be immune to hatred, racism, propaganda that caused this tragedy of the humankind more than 75 years ago.

We welcome and have supported steps of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research: Declaration of Acceptance of the Final Report [of the International Commission on the Holocaust Study, chaired by Elie Wiesel], followed by an action plan that already has very important results.

Minister Babuc already mentioned the optional curriculum that will be launched in September this year. Preparing students, preparing a new generation - these years, when we lose the last witnesses of the tragedy - is extremely important.

We are committed to supporting you in future, as we did previously, in the creation of an all-encompassing, comprehensive museum complex of Jewish history, Jewish life in the Republic of Moldova, the Holocaust, which also contributes to remembrance of the Holocaust and history. You have studied the example of Bucharest, which Rabbi Baker also mentioned as a very good example, and we further encourage you to collaborate with the Jewish community to arrive to the successful inauguration of a museum complex which will contribute to remembrance of Jewish life, of the Holocaust victims, and education of youngsters and population as a whole.

As mentioned, Moldova adopted the working definition of anti-Semitism, which is yet another very important step in combating anti-Semitism, which, unfortunately, is on the rise in many European countries. In this case, we hope that Parliament's activity will go further, including improving criminal legislation in the field of hate crimes. The OSCE stands by to support you in this area, we commit ourselves to contributing to improving the capacity of the police and the judiciary to combat hate crimes.

I would like to mention that in early February the Slovak Chairmanship-in-Office will hold a conference in Bratislava on combating anti-Semitism in OSCE area. I am very pleased that

the Republic of Moldova will be represented at this conference and will participate in experience exchange at the OSCE.

We are still committed to supporting you in the important steps you have initiated, and once again, I want to welcome the holding of today's event and those held over the course of the week of remembrance of Holocaust victims.

Thank you for your attention.