

**OPENING STATEMENT
SENATOR RICHARD G. LUGAR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
EUROPEAN SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON ANTI-SEMITISM IN EUROPE
OCTOBER 22, 2003**

I am pleased that the Subcommittee on European Affairs is holding a hearing on "Anti-Semitism in Europe." I want to congratulate Senator Allen, the chair of the European Subcommittee, for his diligence in constructing this hearing and his commitment to the topic, and Senator Voinovich for his contributions to the hearing and his ongoing work to promote international religious tolerance.

It is important that the United States oppose anti-Semitism wherever it is found and work in cooperation with good friends to overcome this problem. Evidence of anti-Semitism in Europe has increased alarmingly in recent years. According to Tel Aviv University's 2002-2003 annual report on anti-Semitism worldwide, more than 50 percent of violent anti-Semitic incidents reported in 2002 occurred in Western Europe. France, the United Kingdom, and Belgium had the highest number of reported incidents.

I am hopeful that European governments are beginning to grapple more seriously with the problem of anti-Semitism. I was pleased last February when the French education ministry launched a campaign to combat anti-Semitism and other types of racism in schools. The UK, Germany and Sweden reportedly also have initiated efforts to combat racism and anti-Semitism.

Last June, former New York City Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani led the American delegation to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's first trans-Atlantic conference on anti-Semitism. The conference was an important sign that the U.S. and Europe recognize that a serious and coordinated response to anti-Semitism is required. Among other proposals made at the conference, the U.S. delegation recommended establishing a more uniform reporting system of anti-Semitic events worldwide. I support the adoption of this idea.

This hearing will provide members of Congress with insight into the Administration's policy on this issue. It also brings together a distinguished panel of witnesses from the private sector that will expand our insights into how we can address anti-Semitism. I thank each of our witnesses for being with us today, and I look forward to their testimony.