

**Request from the International League Against Racism and Anti-Semitism (LICRA) for the PC/ADI-CH, received on 21 February 2022**

Madam Secretary General,

The International League Against Racism and Anti-Semitism (LICRA) is an International Non-Governmental Organisation (INGO) which enjoys the participatory status of the Council of Europe.

It is a member of the Conference of INGOs, within which it chairs the Committee on Human Rights and Artificial Intelligence. She has actively participated in the work of the Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI) and the Committee of Experts on Combating Hate Speech (ADI/MSI-DIS) since their creation. Since 9 December 2021 it has had observer status in the CDADI.

In accordance with the mandate of the new Committee of Experts on Hate Crimes PC/ADI-CH, a subordinate body of the CDADI, and with Article 8 of Resolution CM/Res(2021)3, which provides that NGOs may apply for observer status, Licra now wishes to be granted observer status within this Committee of Experts on Hate Crimes PC/ADI-CH.

In support of our request, please find attached a more complete presentation of the Licra and its activities, particularly in the field of the fight against hate speech, both offline and online, and against the misuse of artificial intelligence.

Please accept, Madam Secretary General, the assurance of my respectful consideration.

Mario Stasi

President of the Licra

## Annex

The International League Against Racism and Anti-Semitism (Licra) was founded in 1927 in a context marked by the rise of the extreme right and anti-Semitism in Europe. It very quickly linked the fight against anti-Semitism to the fight against all forms of racism, xenophobia and all the discrimination that is a consequence of it.

The Licra is deeply attached to the values of freedom, equality and fraternity and defends a simple principle in its action: the universality of human rights. The Licra is active in several areas:

- Firstly, education: the Licra works alongside teachers in primary and secondary schools to enable young people to become citizens aware of the dangers of racism and anti-Semitism and thus avoid the fragmentation of our society.
- Secondly, sport, because it is both fun and very popular, especially among young people. It is important to work with sports educators and the managers of amateur and professional clubs, particularly in football, to fight against racist, sexist and homophobic abuses. Here too, young people must be educated to respect others, respect the rules and respect the values of equality and solidarity, particularly between girls and boys.
- We are, of course, leading the digital battle to combat hate on social networks. Since 2016, as trusted flagger, we have been monitoring the networks in relation with the European Commission and the main internet intermediaries. We also work with platforms to ensure that they remove illegal hateful content as quickly as possible and we prosecute the authors of hateful comments when we can identify them.
- The Licra also intervenes in schools for judges, public prosecutors, police officers and gendarmes with two objectives: to raise awareness among these personnel on the subject of racism, anti-Semitism and discrimination and to improve the conditions for receiving and receiving complaints from victims of hate speech and acts in police stations, gendarmerie brigades and the courts.
- At the legal and judicial level, we advise and accompany victims of racist, anti-Semitic, xenophobic, homophobic and misogynist speech and acts. We accompany them with legal professionals, relying in particular on a network of lawyers who agree to intervene free of charge before the courts alongside the victims of hate speech and acts.
- The Licra is also an active member of the National Consultative Commission on Human Rights and maintains links with the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) of the Council of Europe.