



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

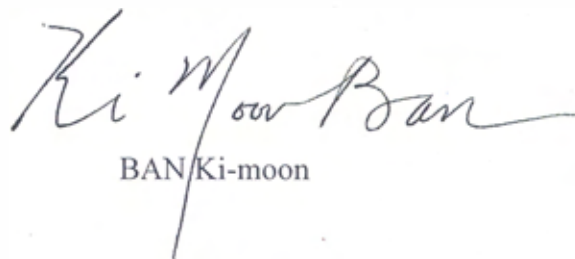
7 July 2011

Excellency,

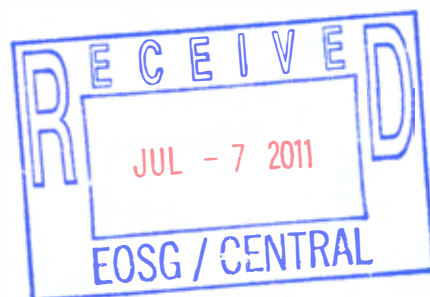
I wish to thank you for your letter dated 25 May 2011, forwarding the report on the challenges arising from the resurgence of intolerance and discrimination in Europe, which was prepared by a group of eminent persons chaired by the former Foreign Minister of Germany, His Excellency Mr. Joschka Fischer. The report is a timely contribution not only for promoting tolerance across Europe but also across our increasingly interdependent world.

I look forward to hearing more about the strategy of the Council of Europe to promote tolerance and understanding between peoples, cultures and religions across Europe.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.


BAN/Ki-moon

His Excellency
Mr. Thorbjørn Jagland
Secretary General of the Council of Europe
Strasbourg




11-06164 EXR/11/002



Executive Office of the Secretary-General
Cabinet du Secrétaire général

To: Mr. Nambiar,

Please find attached for your approval and SG's signature, a letter to the Council of Europe Secretary General regarding the Council's report on the challenges arising from the resurgence of intolerance and discrimination in Europe.

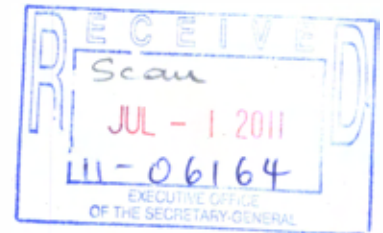

Nicholas Haysom
6 July 2011

Cc: KWS

11-06164

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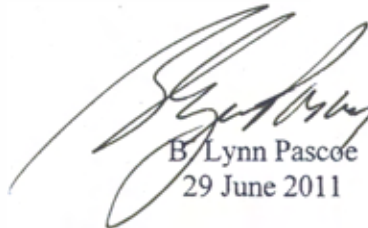


Note to Mr. Nambiar

**SECRETARY-GENERAL'S LETTER TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF
THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE** //

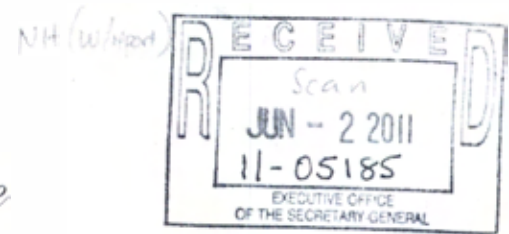
Please find attached, for the Secretary-General's approval and signature, a letter
acknowledging receipt of a letter by H.E. Mr. Thorbjørn Jagland dated 25 May 2011.

(Related
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11-05185)


B. Lynn Pascoe
29 June 2011

EXR/11/002

Council of Europe
The Secretary General



Strasbourg, 25 May 2011

Dear Secretary-General,

Today, many of our citizens feel that our societies are under threat from the multitude of social, political, cultural, religious and other tensions which foment mistrust and fear.

We must continue to build a culture of living together as a basis for concrete political action. After the war we built togetherness among democracies in the western part of Europe. Today, we have to build this for the entire continent; to pave the way for pan-European action.

The Council of Europe has of course a pivotal role to play in this. Our mandate is to safeguard the moral and legal ground for European unity, not only between states, but more importantly between people, cultures and religions. Our task is to see to it that Europe is not a fertile ground for extremism, but a fertile ground for political action on a pan-European level.

The great European project after the war started with the recognition deep down in society that all Europeans were bound by a common destiny, that they had the same rights and shared the same values.

We have to start from this point once again. This is why I asked a Group of Eminent Persons, chaired by former German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer, to prepare a report on the challenges arising from the resurgence of intolerance and discrimination in Europe. You will find **attached** the printed **version** of this report which was presented by Javier Solana, member of the Group, on 10 May in Istanbul in the context of the Council of Europe's Ministerial Session.

The report is also available online on our website: www.coe.int

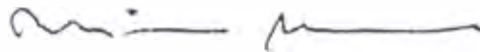
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Mr Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations

Our discussions in Istanbul have paved the way for a follow-up to the report's concrete recommendations. Implementing them is certainly our common responsibility. The Council of Europe will now discuss the issues raised in the report and their possible follow-up.

I would be keen to discuss the practical ways in which we could co-operate in order to foster the messages contained in this report.

Yours sincerely,



Thorbjørn Jagland