

INFORMATION ON ECRI'S COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY APPROACH

The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) is an independent human rights monitoring mechanism which was established by the first Summit of Heads of State and Government of the member States of the Council of Europe (October 1993).

ECRI's task is to combat racism, xenophobia, antisemitism and intolerance at pan-European level and from the perspective of the protection of human rights.

ECRI's members are appointed on the basis of their in-depth knowledge in the field of combating intolerance. They are appointed in their personal capacity and act as independent members.

ECRI's programme of activities comprises three aspects: country-by-country approach; work on general themes; activities in relation with civil society.

In the framework of its country-by-country approach, ECRI closely examines the situation in each of the member States of the Council of Europe and draws up, following this analysis, suggestions and proposals as to how the problems of racism and intolerance identified in each country might be dealt with.

The reports drawn up by ECRI are first sent, in the form of draft texts, to the member States concerned for a process of confidential dialogue with the national authorities of these countries. The content of the report is reviewed in the light of this dialogue. The report is then adopted in its final form and forwarded by ECRI to the government of the member State concerned, through the intermediary of the Committee of Ministers. The report is made public once it has been communicated to the authorities, unless the government in question has expressly indicated its opposition to making the report public.

ECRI started the fifth round of its country-by-country reports in January 2013. The fifth round focuses on four topics common for all member States and a number of topics specific to each one of them. The four common topics are: legislative issues related to combating racism, hate speech, violence and integration policies. Interim recommendations not implemented or partially implemented during the fourth monitoring cycle (see at the end of ECRI's 4th report) will also be followed up. This round will take place over five years and again cover all member States of the Council of Europe, with the aim of producing around ten individual country reports annually.

In order to obtain as detailed and comprehensive a picture as possible of the situation as regards racism and intolerance in each country, a contact visit is organised for the relevant ECRI rapporteurs before the preparation of the new report on each country.

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The contact visit to Liechtenstein takes place from 25 to 28 September 2017.

ECRI's delegation is composed of:

- Ms Reetta Toivanen (member of ECRI in respect of Finland)
- Mr Gabriel Balayan (member of ECRI in respect of Armenia)

It is assisted by Ms Sophie Kurt and Mr Wolfram Bechtel of ECRI's Secretariat and 2 interpreters.

Meetings are foreseen with:

- Representatives of relevant governmental ministries and other public bodies
- Representatives of non-governmental organisations and other concerned circles

Background documents available on ECRI's homepage (see Country Monitoring Work and Work on General Themes):

- ECRI's 4th Report on Liechtenstein
- ECRI's Conclusions on the implementation of the priority recommendations addressed to Liechtenstein
- ECRI General Policy Recommendation N°7 on national legislation to combat racism and racial discrimination

THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

The Council of Europe is a political organisation which was founded on 5 May 1949 by ten European countries in order to promote greater unity between its members. It now numbers 47 European States.¹

The main aims of the Organisation are to promote democracy, human rights and the rule of law, and to develop common responses to political, social, cultural and legal challenges in its member States. Since 1989 it has integrated most of the countries of central and eastern Europe and supported them in their efforts to implement and consolidate their political, legal and administrative reforms.

The Council of Europe has its permanent headquarters in Strasbourg (France). By Statute, it has two constituent organs: the Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly. The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe represents the entities of local and regional self-government within the member States.

The European Court of Human Rights is the judicial body competent to adjudicate complaints brought against a State by individuals, associations or other contracting States on grounds of violation of the European Convention on Human Rights.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION AGAINST RACISM AND INTOLERANCE

The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) is a monitoring body established by the first Summit of Heads of State and Government of the member States of the Council of Europe. The decision to establish ECRI is contained in the Vienna Declaration adopted by the first Summit on 9 October 1993. The European Conference against Racism, held in Strasbourg in October 2000, called for the strengthening of ECRI's action. On 13 June 2002, the Committee of Ministers adopted a new Statute for ECRI, consolidating its role as an independent human rights monitoring body on issues related to racism and racial discrimination.

The task of ECRI is to combat racism, xenophobia, antisemitism and intolerance at the level of greater Europe and from the perspective of the protection of human rights. ECRI's action covers all necessary measures to combat violence, discrimination and prejudice faced by persons or groups of persons, notably on grounds of race, colour, language, religion, nationality and national or ethnic origin.

*For further information on ECRI and its activities, please contact:
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¹ Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom.