

*Permanent Mission of Estonia
Geneva*

No. 10-6/100

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Estonia to the United Nations and Other International Organisations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Human Rights Committee, and in response to the letter from 29 November 2011, has the honour to forward the reply of the Government of Estonia concerning the Committee's additional questions after the examination of the third periodic report of Estonia at the Committee's 99th session, held in July 2010.

The Permanent Mission of Estonia to the United Nations and Other International Organisations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 20 January 2012



Enclosure: 1 page

*Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Human Rights Committee
GENEVA*

Additional information provided by Estonia in response to the communication of the Human Rights Committee from 29 November 2011 concerning the consideration of the third periodic report of Estonia on implementing the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Regarding additional information concerning paragraph 5 of the concluding observations, Estonia reiterates that the Chancellor of Justice enjoys a broad mandate to protect and promote human rights. The activities of the Chancellor of Justice comply with the conditions set forth in the Paris Principles. Estonia is considering various avenues regarding the possible establishment of an NHRI, as the Chancellor of Justice is not accredited as a national human rights institution under the ICCNHRI.

Regarding additional information concerning paragraph 5 of the concluding observations, Estonia informs the Committee that despite overall budgetary constraints the budget for the Gender Equality and Equal Treatment Commissioner and its office in 2012 remained on the same level as in 2011. Furthermore, the Ministry of Social Affairs has prepared an application for a programme to be financed from the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009-2014 in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between Norway and Estonia. According to this application, the institution of the Gender Equality and Equal Treatment Commissioner would receive at least 700 000 EUR for the implementation period of the programme from autumn 2012 until the end of 2015 for taking concrete measures connected to her responsibilities specified in law. The whole budget of the programme for gender equality and work-life balance measures is 2 million EUR. The draft programme is sent for evaluation to the Norwegian authorities and is expected to be approved in summer 2012.

Regarding the strategy for creation of the Gender Equality Council, negotiations by the Ministry of Social Affairs with possible members of the Council are to be started in the first half of 2012 and the proposal for composition of the Council is planned for submission to the Government for approval during 2012.