



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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28 August 2015

Excellency,

I wish to inform you that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, in the course of its 87th session, considered the follow-up report submitted by the Government of Belarus, pursuant to Rule 65 (1) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee.

The Committee welcomes the timely submission of the report, in response to its request to receive information within one year on the implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 10, 15 and 17 of the Concluding Observations (CERD/C/BLR/CO/18-19), adopted following the consideration of the State party's combined 18th to 19th periodic reports.

The Committee appreciates the opportunity provided to continue its dialogue with the State party, and would like to draw the State party's attention to the observations mentioned below. The Committee requests that comments and responses on actions taken by the State party on these issues be included in its 20th to 23rd periodic reports to be submitted in a single document on 8 May 2016.

Paragraph 10 of the Concluding Observations: The Committee thanks the State party for its response informing on legislative and institutional measures taken to avoid a broad interpretation of the Combating Terrorism Act. The Committee urges the State party to closely monitor that this law is not applied in violation of fundamental freedoms and human rights of individuals and requests the State party to provide detailed information on the application of the Act by domestic courts.

While noting the establishment in 2014 of the National Expert Commission tasked to assess signs of extremism in the country, the Committee is still concerned that broad interpretation of extremism in principle infringes on the right to freedom of expression of individuals. In this regard, the Committee stresses that the views of civil society organizations should effectively be taken into consideration when expert advice on extremism is adopted.

H.E. Mr. Alexandre Opimakh
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The Committee requests that the State party provide further information on how it strives to protect fundamental freedoms while combating extremism bearing in mind the Committee's General recommendation no. 35 (2013) on combating racist hate speech.

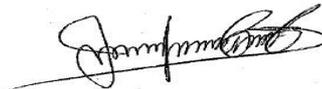
Paragraph 15 of the Concluding Observations: The Committee thanks the State party for its response and notes some efforts made by the State party towards the establishment of a national human rights institution. However, the Committee is concerned about the delay in establishing such institution and reiterates its recommendation that the State party expedite efforts to establish a fully independent human rights institution with a broad mandate for the promotion and protection of human rights, including receiving and processing complaints from individuals, in line with the Paris Principles.

Paragraph 17 of the Concluding Observations: The Committee commends the State party for legislative and institutional measures aimed at combating human trafficking as well as awareness-raising campaigns on preventing this scourge. The Committee would welcome more information on the impact of the National Action Plan 2013-2015 and on improving the coordination of international efforts against trafficking in persons.

Rest assured, Excellency, that the Committee looks forward to continuing its constructive dialogue with the Government of Belarus, with a view to providing it with assistance in its efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention.

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

Yours sincerely,



José Francisco Calí Tzay
Chair

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination