



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
PALAIS DES NATIONS • 1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND

www.ohchr.org • TEL: +41 22 917 9000 • FAX: +41 22 917 9008 • E-MAIL: registry@ohchr.org

REFERENCE CERD/83rd/FU/GH/MN/vc

30 August 2013

Excellency,

I wish to inform you that the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, in the course of its 83rd session, considered the follow-up report submitted by the Government of Serbia, pursuant to Rule 65(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee.

The Committee welcomes the submission of the report, in response to its request to receive information within one year on the implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 11, 15, 19 and 22 of the Concluding Observations (CERD/C/SRB/CO/1), adopted following the consideration of the State party's initial periodic report during its 78th session in March 2012.

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 to be included in its second to fourth periodic reports to be submitted in a single document by 4 January 2014.

Paragraph 11 of the Concluding Observations: The Committee thanks the State party for its clarification concerning the roles and functions of the Office for Human and Minority Rights, Commissioner for the Protection of Equality, and the Protector of Citizens. It also welcomes the additional information provided by the State party on recent developments related to combating racial discrimination, such as the initiation of a drafting process to adopt a Strategy for Combating Racial Discrimination with a relevant Action Plan, and the amendment of the Identity Card Law and the Law on Permanent and Temporary Residence to enable persons without a permanent address to obtain temporary personal identification documents. The Committee takes note of such developments, and requests the State party to include in its next periodic report: (i) further information on the Strategy for Combating Discrimination and its Plan of Action, as well as any progress with regard to their adoption and implementation; and (ii) information on the number of individuals who have been granted personal identification documents following the amendment of the Identity Card Law and the Law on Permanent and Temporary Residence.

His Excellency
Ambassador Vladislav Mladenović
Permanent Representative of Serbia
to the United Nations Office
and other International organizations at Geneva
Email: serbian.mission@bluewin.ch



Paragraph 15 of the Concluding Observations: The Committee thanks the State party for the information provided on measures taken to address obstacles for Roma children to access education, including the adoption of the Law on the Fundamentals of the Educational System which has reportedly led to the reduction of Roma children enrolled in special schools from eight per cent to six per cent; the drafting of a Rule book on the Implementation of Affirmative Action Measures which aims at increasing the enrolment of members of the Roma community in secondary and higher education; and training and professional education programmes carried out in 180 institutions engaging pedagogical assistants whose functions include assisting children from the Roma community. The Committee wishes to receive further information concerning the establishment of specialized and appropriate procedures for the reception, assessment and placement of children returnees, as well as on the impact of measures taken to reduce de facto segregation of Roma children in schools.

Paragraph 19 of the Concluding Observations: The Committee welcomes the ratification by the State party of the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness in December 2011, and other measures taken to reduce statelessness, such as the adoption of the Law on Temporary and Permanent Residence of Citizens, the Law on Registers of Birth, Marriages and Deaths, and the Law on Amendments to the Law on Extra-Judicial Proceedings. As noted above under paragraph 11, the Committee requests further information concerning the number of individuals, in particular the Roma, Ashkalis and Egyptians, who have been granted identity documents. It also requests additional information on concrete activities carried out to raise awareness among the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian population of the recent legal developments and how they may benefit from them.

Paragraph 22 of the Concluding Observations: The Committee notes that Ratko Mladić and Goran Hadžić were arrested in 2011 and extradited to the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) to face prosecution.

Rest assured, Excellency, that the Committee looks forward to continuing its constructive dialogue with the Government of Serbia, 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.

Alexei Avtonomov
Chair
Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination