

*Permanent Mission of Estonia  
Geneva*

No. 10-6/217

*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 24 May 2013, has the honour to forward the follow-up 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 first reply to the additional questions has been sent to the honorable Committee by the Permanent Mission of Estonia with the Note No 10-6/100 on 20 January 2012.*

*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, 30 July 2013



*Enclosure: 3 pages*

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

**OHCHR REGISTRY**

**05 AUG 2013**

Recipients : .....

*HR Committee*

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Reply of 1 August 2013

**Additional information provided by Estonia in response to the communication of the Human Rights Committee from 24 May 2013 concerning the follow-up information provided by Estonia to the concluding observations of the third periodic report of Estonia on implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights**

With regard to the Committee's communication of 29 November 2011 we hereby inform the committee that a response was sent by Estonia by the deadline specified by the Committee, on the 20 January 2012 (please find enclosed a copy of the letter).

**In addition to the information provided in the previous communication, concerning paragraph 6 of the concluding observations (erroneously cited as paragraph 5 in the reply of 20 January 2012) Estonia further informs the committee of the following.**

Although the budget of the Gender Equality and Equal Treatment Commissioner remained the same in 2012 compared to 2011, the budget has increased from 51 884 EUR in 2010 to 62 351 EUR in 2013.

On 30 October 2012 Norway approved the programme in the framework of gender equality and reconciliation of work and family life financed from the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009-2014, operated by the Ministry of Social Affairs. Estonia is co-financing the budget of the project by 15%. The Ministry of Social Affairs had marked in the application a pre-defined project for financing the activities of the Gender Equality and Equal Treatment Commissioner, which the Commissioner is now in the process of implementing.

In order to implement the activities planned by the Commissioner to enhance legal protection against discrimination and to promote gender equality, several additional staff members have been recruited by the Commissioner – a specialist on gender equality, a senior lawyer, a project coordinator, a lawyer, a media advisor and a secretary. The budget of the project of the commissioner is 700 000 EUR. The project started on 25 March 2013 and will last until the end of 2015.

Regarding the Gender Equality Council, the Ministry of Social Affairs is planning the finalisation of the formation of the Council during 2013.

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No. 10-6/100

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*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.