



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

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2 December 2013

Excellency,

In my capacity as Special Rapporteur for Follow-up on Concluding Observations of the Human Rights Committee, I have the honour to refer to the follow-up to the examination of the third periodic report of Bulgaria.

At the end of its 102<sup>nd</sup> session, the Committee transmitted its concluding observations to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that, in paragraph 28 of the concluding observations, the Committee requested the State party to provide within one year further information on the specific areas of concern identified in paragraphs 8, 11 and 21 of the concluding observations.

On 4 February 2013, the Committee received the reply of the State party. At its 109th session held in October 2013, the Committee analysed this information and adopted the following decisions:

- Paragraph 8: While the report indicates local measures to implement the Committee's recommendation, including training organized for police officers, the Committee considered that additional information should be requested on: (a) information and data on investigations, the prosecution of perpetrators and the adoption of provisions for effective protection and remedies to the victims; (b) data on the incidence of all forms of harassment by the police and ill-treatment during police investigations; and (c) measures taken to create an oversight mechanism on prosecution and convictions in the case of complaints against criminal conduct by members of the police.
- Paragraph 11: The Committee noted that positive measures were taken by the State party, but considered it necessary to request a copy of the Act on Amendments to the Ministry of Interior Act, in force since 1 July 2012, to assess its compliance with international standards on the use of lethal force and article 6 of the Covenant.

His Excellency  
Mr. Ivan Piperkov  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Representative



- Paragraph 21: The Committee considered that no measures have been adopted and reiterated its recommendation. Additional information should be provided by the State party on the progress realized by the State party to ensure that the principle of independence of the judiciary is fully respected, in particular if the State party has conducted any awareness-raising activities on the key values of an independent judiciary aimed at judicial authorities, law enforcement officials and/or for the population at large.

The next follow-up report of the Human Rights Committee will be adopted in March 2014. If the State party wishes the information referred to be taken into account on that occasion, the reply should be sent in a Word electronic version to the Secretariat of the Human Rights Committee **by 5 January 2014** (Kate Fox: [kfox@ohchr.org](mailto:kfox@ohchr.org) and Fernanda Santana: [fsantana@ohchr.org](mailto:fsantana@ohchr.org)).

The Committee looks forward to pursuing its constructive dialogue with the Bulgarian authorities on the implementation of the Covenant.

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

Fabián Omar Salvioli  
Special Rapporteur for Follow-up to Concluding Observations  
Human Rights Committee