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Excellency,

I wish to inform you that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination considered, at its 71st session held from 30 July to 17 August 2007, the follow-up report submitted by the Government of Lithuania (CERD/C/LTU/CO/3/Add.1) pursuant to rule 65 (1) of its rules of procedure.

The Committee welcomes the submission of information, as requested, on the implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 13, 17, 22 and 23 of the Concluding observations (CERD/C/LTU/CO/3), adopted by the Committee following the consideration at its 68th session of the second and third periodic reports of Lithuania, submitted in one document.

The Committee appreciates the opportunity thus provided to continue the dialogue with the State party. In this spirit, the Committee would like to draw the State party's attention to the observations mentioned below. The Committee recommends that the State party include its comments and responses in relation to these issues in its fourth and fifth periodic reports, to be submitted in a single document on 9 January 2008:

- **Paragraph 13 of the concluding observations:** The Committee welcomes the information provided on the National Anti-Discrimination Programme 2006-2008, including on the steps taken to increase and improve the investigation of racial discrimination and looks forward to receiving specific and concrete information on the results of this Programme.

H. E. Mr. Edvardas Borisovas
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- **Paragraph 17 of the concluding observations:** The Committee takes note of the information providing an overview of the bodies that may look into the behaviour of police officers. It also notes, however, that the investigation of police misconduct remains in the hands of the police, rather than being the responsibility of an independent mechanism. The Committee would be interested in receiving information on the reasons for such choice. It would also appreciate receiving concrete and specific information on the results of the two investigations conducted in 2006 and mentioned in the report. The Committee welcomes the information on the human rights and ethics training provided to police officers and would appreciate precise information on the proportion of police officers who have received or are to receive such training.
- **Paragraph 22 of the concluding observations:** The Committee takes note of the information according to which basic health care is available free of charge for all citizens, including Roma. In this respect, the Committee would appreciate receiving precise information as to what is considered “*basic health care*”, and what therefore is not covered for persons without health insurance. The Committee would appreciate receiving information on the implementation and results of the Programme for Ensuring Maintenance and Safety in the Vilnius Roma Community and Other Territories around the Tabor and for Reduction of Roma Segregation for 2005-2010, including how this programme has improved or is expected to improve the drinking water supplies and sewage disposal systems in Roma settlements.
- **Paragraph 23 of the concluding observations:** The Committee welcomes the decision of the Constitutional Court of Lithuania of 13 November 2006, declaring art. 18.2 of the Lithuanian Law on Citizenship void as contrary to the Lithuanian Constitution. The Committee welcomes in particular the clear statement by the Constitutional Court that residents of Lithuania must not be discriminated against on the basis of ethnic origin or nationality, and that this requirement must also be respected in any legal regulation on citizenship. The Committee requests information on the proposals that were to be presented by the working group established by the Prime Minister no later than 1 February 2007, as well as on the steps taken to implement such or other proposals and changes to the Lithuanian Law on Citizenship that were necessitated by the decision of the Lithuanian Constitutional Court.

Allow me, Excellency, to reiterate the wish of the Committee to pursue its constructive dialogue with your Government, and to underline that the Committee’s observations and request for further information are made with a view to assisting your Government in the effective implementation of the Convention.

Yours sincerely,

Régis de Gouttes
Chairman of the Committee for the
Elimination of Racial Discrimination