



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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REFERENCE: CERD/81st/FU/GH/FM

31 August 2012

Excellency,

I wish to inform you that the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, in the course of its 81st session, considered the follow-up report submitted by the Government of Poland, 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 4, 6 and 7 of the Concluding Observations (CERD/C/POL/CO/19), adopted following the consideration of the State party's consolidated seventeenth to nineteenth periodic reports during its 75th session in September 2009.

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 twentieth and twenty-first periodic reports which was due since January 2012.

Paragraph 4 of the Concluding observations: The Committee would like to receive information on the progress made in implementing the closure of the Roma Classes, and requests that the State party provide updated information on the activities of *the Working Group on the education of children of different races and culture* and its achievements. The Committee requests that the State party provide updated information regarding the scholarship programme to promote higher education among Roma children and talented students in its next periodic report which is overdue since January 2012.

His Excellency
Ambassador Remigiusz A. Henczel
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland
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In addition, the Committee requests information on relevant measures taken by public administration authorities to improve the overall situation of this community further to the Human Rights Defender's field research on the situation of Roma community, including Polish language courses. The Committee also wishes to receive information on the achievements and impact of the various poverty reduction policies and strategies for the improvement of living standards of Roma community, such as employment and adequate housing.

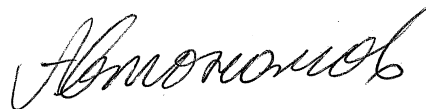
Finally, the Committee requests the State party to provide in its next periodic report statistical data on the ethnic composition of the population following the 2011 census organized in Poland.

Paragraph 6 of the Concluding observations: The Committee welcomes the information on measures and activities undertaken by the State party to combat racial discrimination and requests it to provide relevant data on concrete achievements in this area. The Committee also encourages the State party to organize training programmes on racial discrimination for judges.

Paragraph 7 of the Concluding observations: The Committee thanks the State party for the information provided on its efforts to prevent and punish anti-Semitic acts and requests it to provide updated information on the results achieved in this regard. While taking note of the absence of complaints from persons belonging to the Jewish minority, the Committee, recalling its general recommendation No. 31 (2005) on the prevention of racial discrimination in the administration and functioning of the criminal justice system, encourages the State party to assess whether this situation is due to fear of reprisals, lack of awareness of legal remedies or lack of trust in the operation of judicial bodies.

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