



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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Excellency,

I wish to inform you that the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, in the course of its 80th session, considered the follow-up report submitted by the Government of the Republic of Estonia, 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 11, 13 and 17 of the Concluding Observations (CERD/C/EST/CO/8-9), adopted following the consideration of the State party's eighth to ninth periodic reports in September 2010. 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 tenth and eleventh periodic reports to be submitted in a single document by 20 November 2012.

Paragraph 11 of the concluding observations. The Committee welcomes the State party's intention to amend Section 151 of the Penal Code by making racially motivated hate speech an offence punishable by law that does not depend on appraising the consequences that follow such speech. It acknowledges that the State party envisages prohibiting racist organizations whose activities are directed at the commission of criminal offences. Welcoming the information that Estonia is considering ratifying the Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime, the Committee wishes to remind the State Party of the importance of criminalizing acts of racist and xenophobic nature committed through computer systems.

His Excellency Mr. Jüri Seilenthal
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The Committee invites the State party to share any updated information on concrete steps it has taken aimed at amending its Penal Code in accordance with article 4 of the Convention, bearing in mind its General recommendation No. 15 (1993) on the same article.

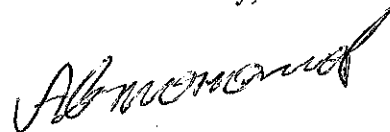
Paragraph 13 of the concluding observations. The Committee takes note of the information provided that sufficient attention has been devoted both the promotion of the Estonian language and to the preservation of ethno-cultural identities of minorities in the Estonian Language Development Plan, and the Integration Strategy. It welcomes the fact that foreign languages may be used additionally to the Estonian language in public administration and communication, throughout the territory of Estonia, irrespective of the ethnic composition of the population. The Committee welcomes the entry into force of the new Language Act in July 2011 in which the possibilities of the waiver from taking the Estonian language proficiency examination have been widened.

Paragraph 17 of the concluding observations. While welcoming the information provided, the Committee reiterates its recommendations related to the need for the State party to assess the overall situation of the Roma community and to adopt a comprehensive strategy to tackle discrimination and other problems faced by this community.

Regarding the education of Roma children, the Committee requests the State party to provide it with additional information regarding the implementation of recommendations based on the study commissioned by the Ministry of Education and Science on the education of Roma children. The Committee encourages the State party to provide additional information on the decision-making procedure relating to the placement of Roma children in special-needs schools and on measures taken to avoid the consequence that such placement could be based on ethnicity and racial discrimination.

Rest assured, Excellency, that the Committee looks forward to continuing its constructive dialogue with the Government of the Republic of Estonia, with a view to providing it with assistance in its efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention.

Yours sincerely,



Alexei Avtonomov
Chairperson of the Committee
on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination