

**UPR INTERVENTION FOR ESTONIA**  
**Thursday June 9<sup>th</sup> 2011**  
**COC Netherlands**

Delivered by Björn van Roozendaal

Mr. President,

We commend Estonia for accepting various recommendations in relation to sexual orientation and gender identity, amongst which:

1. Public awareness raising campaigns on gender identity and sexual orientation issues for civil servant including security forces and bodies, as well as education programs;
2. Taking measures to combat discrimination against homosexuals.

We recommend Estonia to pay particular attention to discrimination on the basis of gender identity. A recent report of the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency noted that such approach has not yet been developed by Estonia and recommended that clarification and development of legislation in this field is necessary as the present legislation does not sufficiently represent their interests. In this field we particular encourage Estonia to allow change of gendered identification documents without the prerequisite state prescribed medical treatment.

In relation to this, we ask the delegation of the Estonia:

- To specifically inform the Human Rights Council about the development of the necessary means;
- To include civil society organisations in the development, execution and evaluation of such measures.

We regret that Estonia does not accept recommendations to accord the same rights and responsibilities to same-sex partners as are accorded to opposite sex-partners. Such lack of recognition discriminates same-sex couples and brings LGBT families in disadvantaged positions when it comes to access to social benefits, parenting, access to legacies, and recognition before the law. We recommend Estonia to reconsider its position to these recommendations.

Finally, we strongly urge Estonia to consider applying the *Yogyakarta Principles on the Application of International Human Rights Law in relation to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity* as a guide to assist in policy development.

Thank you Mr President.

