

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA – Add.1

CZECH REPUBLIC

- We welcome the progress in human rights issues in Moldova, however the Czech Republic also expresses its concern about a high number of allegations of the use of force, cruel and degrading arrest, interrogation methods and beating of prison inmates by the police. Almost 15 percents of total inmates reported beatings by police and victims still lack access to effective judicial remedies. ECHR issued judgments that found violations by the state of the prohibition of torture and protection against inhuman or degrading treatment as provided by the European Convention on Human Rights. What steps will the Government take to tackle this issue?
- We appreciate that prison conditions in Chisinau meet international standards which has regretfully not been so in the other 38 pretrial detention facilities. Cell sizes do not conform to local law or international standards and the incidence of malnutrition and disease, particularly tuberculosis, is high in all prisons. What measures is Moldova going to take in order to enhance conditions in these facilities?
- Official pressure on judges and corruption remains a problem. There are credible reports of local prosecutors and judges asking for bribes in return for reducing charges or sentences, and observers asserted that judges sometimes faced political influence. Corruption and inefficiency is similar in the civilian courts and in the military court system. NGOs also expressed concern that the practice of keeping defendants in handcuffs and metal cages during court proceedings failed to ensure the presumption of innocence and was not necessary. What concrete steps are in place ensuring that all the trials are fair and the presumption of innocence exists?
- As stated in the National Report, nearly 40 percent of court interpreters did not translate in a fully satisfactory manner. The OSCE also noted that judges at times ordered proceedings in Russian, although some participants complained they could not understand the language. What measures are effectively in place to address those concerns?
- Does the Government intend to change its attitude towards illegal searches and wiretaps? The law prohibits such actions, however, the Government did not respect these prohibitions in practice and courts continued to accept illegally obtained evidence.
- According to NGOs, domestic violence and spousal abuse remain widespread. At least 40 percents of women in the country has been victims of one or more violent acts in their life. What concrete steps Moldova is going to take to provide victims with an adequate juridical protection against such assaults?
- Romani NGOs estimate that 80 percent of Romani children are illiterate. According to a UN Development Program report, 43 percent of Romani

children aged 7 to 15 do not attend school, compared with approximately 8 percent of non-Romani children. Most of those children are unable to attend school because of poverty. What measures have been taken to provide a discrimination-free educational environment?

- How does the Government of Moldova address the issue of widespread discrimination against students with disabilities, persons with disabilities, Roma people, LGBT persons, and HIV positive persons?
- There were reports that children, including those in state-run orphanages, women and men were trafficked within and to points outside the country for commercial sexual exploitation, forced labor and begging. Could you please elaborate on implementation of the law prohibiting child neglect and specific forms of abuse?
- According to the credible reports children were made to work under the age of 18 illegally overtime, scheduling work during school hours and underpaid or without payment. What concrete steps is Moldova going to take to protect abused children?

UNITED KINGDOM

- We would be grateful if you could provide information on the extent to which civil society was consulted in the preparation of your national report and the extent they will be included in the follow-up?
- What domestic legislation will you adopt to ensure human rights are protected in Moldova?
- What is the Government doing to ensure a more mature public and parliamentary debate on the draft Law on Preventing and Combating Discrimination?
- What were the Government's reasons for voting against a UN Human Rights Council statement condemning human rights violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity?
- What steps are you taking to prevent the spread of Islamophobia in Moldova?
- What concrete steps does the Moldovan Government plan to make to improve the human rights situation in Transnistria?
- What plans does the Moldovan Government have for further reform of the judiciary, improving prisoner rights and the rule of law?
- Please can you provide an update of your latest action following allegations that some demonstrators were mistreated while in police custody following demonstrations about the parliamentary elections in April 2009?