

**ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF  
MACEDONIA-ADD 1**

**CZECH REPUBLIC**

- The Czech Republic is concerned that freedom of the media has deteriorated in the country over the previous years. What steps does the Government of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia intend to take to ensure protection of this freedom, particularly concerning the impartiality of media regulators and public broadcasters and the safe environment for journalists?
- What remedies and institutional support are available for media outlets and journalists suffering from undue pressure, harassment and intimidation in connection to their work?
- We welcome the amendment of the Law on the Use of Minority languages from 2011. Does the Government intend to ratify the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages?
- What is the state of play of the implementation of the recommendations made by the 2011 OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission?

**BELGIUM**

- Is the Government of the FYROM considering ratifying the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance?
- Is the Government of the FYROM considering fully aligning its national legislation with all obligations under the Rome Statute, in particular by incorporating specific provisions to cooperate promptly and fully with the International Criminal Court?
- Is the Government of the FYROM considering accepting the individual complaints procedure under all the human rights conventions to which it is already a State party?
- When is the Government of the FYROM considering presenting the overdue reports to the CERD and CESCR?
- Is the Government of the FYROM considering ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and combating violence against women, as urged by CEDAW?
- Is the Government of the FYROM considering ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, as recommended by the CRC?
- Would the Government of the FYROM consider including more extensive quantitative monitoring and evaluation mechanisms in the policy process related to the National Roma Strategy?

- The Government of the FYROM recently introduced a new media law to parliament, which was approved after a partial agreement with a journalistic association. Would the Government consider organizing inclusive consultative meetings with the stakeholders as to resolve the outstanding disagreements concerning the new law?
- Which steps have been taken by the Government of the FYROM to ensure that victims of crimes under international law, including relatives of the missing, are guaranteed access to justice, truth and reparation?
- The CEDAW has called upon the FYROM to amend the gender equality and anti-discrimination laws in order to explicitly prohibit all forms of discrimination against women, in accordance with the FYROM's commitments at the previous UPR. What has been done in this respect?
- The CRC has recommended an abolishment of the use of corporal punishment both in educational-correctional institutions and at home. What has the Government of the FYROM done to implement this recommendation?
- The CRC has recommended the enforcement of legislation relevant to punishing perpetrators of physical and sexual abuse against children and ensuring access of victims to specialized recovery and rehabilitation services. Which concrete measures have been taken by the Government of the FYROM to implement this recommendation?
- The CRC has recommended a revision of the Criminal Code to include the crime of sale of children and to prohibit all forms of possession of child pornography. Awareness-raising and capacity-building are crucial in this respect. What has been done to implement this recommendation?

## **GERMANY**

- Although the relevant legislation to safeguard the independence of the judiciary is formally in place, relevant international observers such as the OSCE and the Council of Europe are of the opinion that there are indications of cases of governmental interference. In almost all cases with a political background, the right of the accused to an appeal is reported to be significantly impeded by often very late delivery of written reasons for verdicts which constitutes a violation of the statutory time limits.

Germany would like to know, if the Government of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia will allow an independent review of indictments and sentences in cases where an underlying political influence might be assumed in due time, i.g. by experts of the Council of Europe.

- There has been reporting on about a number of cases of pre-trial detention and sentencing solely based on the testimony of a protected witness. Will the Government of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia allow an independent monitoring of such kind of cases?

## **SLOVENIA**

- Slovenia would appreciate information on plans for addressing the demands by civil society, in particular, the journalists association, to amend the new media-related legislation in order to ensure freedom of opinion and expression as well as independence and transparency of media.

## **SWEDEN**

- What measures will the government take to increase the public's trust in the judiciary system and to ensure clear and transparent procedures for pre-trial detentions?
- There have been reports of poor media freedom in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for a long time where a number of INGOs and CSOs have expressed concern. Lack of civil society consultation on the new draft media laws, public advertisement funding for political purposes and self-censorship are some of the issues raised. What measures does the government of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia intend to take in order to improve the current media freedom situation in the country?