

**ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF
MACEDONIA**

NETHERLANDS

- Can the government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia indicate how it intends to improve the independence of the judiciary, while addressing the recommendations made on this issue in the European Commission progress report of 2013? How does the government seek to increase transparency and capacity in the area of systematic data collection in the criminal justice system?
- How does the government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia intend to ensure that orders for pre-trial detention and extensions are in line with the European Convention of Human Rights and the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights concerning Article 5 (right to liberty and security) of said Convention?
- Can the government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia explain why the implementation of the Lustration Law is ongoing despite the 2012 *amicus curiae* opinion of the Venice Commission raising concern over violations of human rights in some of its articles and while the verdict of the Constitutional Court on whether this Law violates human rights, such as the presumption of innocence, is still pending?
- How does the government intend to take appropriate measures to end impunity for hate speech, violence and intimidation of the LGBT community and take steps as a matter of priority to investigate and prosecute past cases?
- Can the government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia elaborate on its strategy to ensure independence and pluralism of the media? Can the government ensure it will provide transparency on budgetary allocations of public and private media, including transparency on government advertising spending? Is the government willing to lower the punitive fines or introduce incremental steps in the new laws on media and on audio-visual media services to address concerns on disproportionate sanctions which may lead to self-censorship?

UNITED KINGDOM

- How in specific terms will the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia use its seat on the Human Rights Council to offer examples of best practice domestically as well as to advance respect for international human rights obligations?
- Could the Government clarify what checks are in place to ensure legislation is applied evenly and fairly to all?

- What steps is the Government taking beyond legislation to ensure the rights of the LGBTI community are respected, and to increase tolerance and equality within society?
- Can the Government expand on the strategy and timescale for completing the Ohrid Framework Agreement (OFA) review and implementing its recommendations?
- What is the Government doing to ensure media plurality, especially regarding the funding of media outlets?