

## ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO ALBANIA

### **BELGIUM**

- Is Albania considering accepting the individual complaints procedure under all the human rights conventions to which it is already a State party?
- Could Albania clarify when it intends to submit its initial report to the Committee on Enforced Disappearances and its replies to the outstanding follow-up requests by the CERD, the CEDAW and the CAT?
- Is Albania considering aligning its national legislation with the Rome Statute, including by incorporating provisions to cooperate with the ICC and to investigate and prosecute genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes effectively before its national courts?
- The CRC has urged Albania to clarify the definition of the child in its national legislation and reviewing existing legislation to ensure that all children up to the age of 18 years receive the protection they need as provided for in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. What has been done in this respect?
- Is Albania considering amending the Law on the Status of Orphans to extend the age of leaving care to 18 years and to provide appropriate support to children leaving institutions?
- Is Albania considering reinforcing legislation to combat human trafficking as recommended by the CESC, CEDAW, CRC, CAT and the HR Committee?
- Which measures have been put into place by Albania to respond to the HR Committee's request to ensure strict implementation of the prohibition of torture and ill-treatment by detention authorities and police?
- Which concrete measures have been taken by the Government of Albania to improve the independence of the judiciary and to fight against corruption in the selection process of judges?
- Which concrete measures have been taken by Albania to implement the National Strategy on Gender Equality and Reduction of Gender-based violence in the Family (2011-2015)?
- Which concrete measures have been taken by the Government of Albania to fight against harmful traditions, including blood feud-related crimes, child marriages, the practice of family choosing the husband and the payment of a bride price or dowry?
- Which concrete steps have been taken by Albania to implement the National Strategy for Roma and the Decade of Roma Inclusion (2010-2015)?
- Which steps have been undertaken by the Government of Albania to fight against discrimination based on gender identity or sexual orientation?

## **CZECH REPUBLIC**

- The Czech Republic welcomes the adoption of the Law on Protection from Discrimination in Albania. What are the achievements so far of the Office of the Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination?
- The Czech Republic is pleased that thanks to an amendment to the Criminal Code of Albania, domestic violence is a crime punishable by imprisonment. However, the administration and general public do not always consider domestic violence a crime, and the police do not always have the capacity to tackle domestic violence cases effectively. What awareness-raising actions and trainings is Albania to undertake in this regard?
- We acknowledge considerable progress achieved by Albania in the field of children's rights, especially regarding the system of new born registration. What measures has Albania adopted and/or envisaged in order to make the child protection system more effective?
- Even though Albanian law provides for public access to government information, citizens often face problems when seeking such information and complain about lack of transparency. What steps has Albania taken and/or has the intention to take to improve this situation?

## **GERMANY**

- Albania is still a significant country of origin and transit for trafficking in human beings, both for sexual exploitation of women and girls and forced labour. While Germany welcomes Albania's efforts to combat trafficking in human beings, more needs to be done. Which measures has Albania adopted to enhance the protection of victims of trafficking?
- Access to housing, in particular to vulnerable groups and individuals, remains of concern. What measures has the government taken to ensure that vulnerable groups and individuals have access to social housing, without discrimination and according to transparent, fair and expeditious procedures? And in cases where social housing is lacking, how does the government ensure that the most vulnerable families and individuals are nonetheless given priority in access to adequate and affordable accommodation?
- Freedom of the press is an essential democratic requirement, allowing for an informed public debate. An independent media regulatory authority and a strong and independent public-service broadcasting are therefore of great importance. How does the government assess and guarantee the freedom and independence of the press in Albania? And what measures have been taken to strengthen the public-service broadcasting in the country?
- Reports of domestic violence against women have increased in recent years, while investigative and criminal proceedings remained weak. What has the government

done to overall improve investigation in and prosecution of domestic violence? And how are victims of domestic violence protected?

## **MEXICO**

- What mediation and conflict-resolution measures are currently being explored as part of the efforts to end blood feuds and retribution-motivated crimes?
- Are there any institutional rehabilitation and reintegration services provided to victims of torture and ill-treatment?
- What measures are being explored as alternatives to pretrial detention and is there a time-frame for an expected reduction of the application of this practice?

## **NETHERLANDS**

- In light of the commitments made by Albania, what is the status of the adoption of a law on national minorities?
- How will the Government improve birth registration of Roma children, as well as access to education and health services for Roma children?
- Given the already low levels of women's representation in Albanian elected bodies, what are the Government's views on the deterioration of the gender quota in Parliament after the general elections of June 2013? Does the Government have any specific strategy in guaranteeing women political representation and participation?

## **SLOVENIA**

- While noting the progress Albania made with regard to the issue of domestic violence, we would be interested to know what concrete measures and programmes have been undertaken to provide help to the victims of domestic violence.
- What measures have been taken by the Government to effectively fight corruption and ensure an independent judiciary system?
- What steps have been taken to empower the legitimized school-based mechanisms to exercise their role and ensure the exercise of children's right to participation in decision making?

## **SWEDEN**

- Sweden would like to ask Albania to elaborate on the measures taken by the state authorities to prevent the phenomenon of blood feud?

- Sweden would like to ask Albania elaborate on whether any measures are being taken by the state authorities to increase female representation in Parliament and in public offices?

## **UNITED KINGDOM**

- What action is the Government taking or planning to take to address the problem of human-trafficking, particularly of vulnerable women and children ?
- What steps, beyond legislation, is the Government taking to ensure the rights of the LGBT community are respected, and to increase tolerance and equality within society?
- What steps has the government taken within the last year to improve conditions within Albanian prisons?
- What improvements has the Government made or does it envisage in the provision of care to orphans and other vulnerable children?
- What action is the Government taking or does it envisage to address the issue of blood feuds in Albania ?