



КОМИСИЯ ЗА ЗАЩИТА ОТ  
ДИСКРИМИНАЦИЯ

COMMISSION FOR  
PROTECTION AGAINST  
DISCRIMINATION

European Commission  
against Racism and Intolerance

ECRI  
Commission européenne  
contre le racisme et l'intolérance

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Draft agenda

**Round table**

**“Preventing and combating racism, intolerance and discrimination in Bulgaria”**



**organised by the**

**European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)**

**in cooperation with the**

**Commission for Protection against Discrimination (CPD)**

**Thursday 24 April 2025**

Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, ‘Big Conference Room’  
Sofia Center, ul. "15-ti noemvri" 1, 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria

**09:00 – 9:30**

**WELCOME COFFEE AND  
REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS**

**9:30 – 10:00**

**OPENING**

- **Introductory remarks: Johan FRIESTEDT**, Executive Secretary to ECRI
- **Atanas ZAFIROV**, Vice Prime Minister; Chair of the National Council for Cooperation on Ethnic and Integration Issues
- **Genka GEORGIEVA**, Director-General for Global Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- **Bertil COTTIER**, Chair of ECRI
- **Ana DZHUMALIEVA**, Chair of Commission for Protection against Discrimination

<p><b>10h00 – 11h00: SESSION I PRESENTATION OF THE ECRI REPORT ON BULGARIA</b></p>
<p><b>Chair of the Session: Johan FRIESTEDT</b>, Executive Secretary to ECRI</p>

**10:00 – 10:10**

**General presentation of ECRI and its work**  
**Thobias BERGMANN**, ECRI Secretariat

**10:10 – 10:30**

**Main findings and recommendations of ECRI's 6<sup>th</sup> cycle report on Bulgaria**  
**Jens VEDSTED-HANSEN**, ECRI Bureau member and ECRI Rapporteur for Bulgaria

**10:30 - 10:50**

**Implementation of ECRI's recommendations in Bulgaria**  
**Hristiana GROZDANOVA**, Bulgarian government's National Liaison Officer for ECRI

**10:50 – 11:00**

*Discussion with contributions from the floor*

**11h00 - 12h50: SESSION II**  
**HOW TO EFFECTIVELY COUNTER RACIST AND ANTI-LGBTI HATE**  
**SPEECH AND HATE CRIME**

**Chair of the session: Jens VEDSTED-HANSEN**, ECRI Bureau member and ECRI Rapporteur for Bulgaria

**11:00 – 11:15**      **ECRI and Council of Europe standards on hate speech and hate crime**  
**Bertil COTTIER**, Chair of ECRI

**11:15 – 12:05**      **Challenges and progress in preventing and combating racist and anti-LGBTI hate speech and hate crime in Bulgaria**  
**Panellists**

- **Ana DZHUMALIEVA**, Chair of Commission for Protection against Discrimination
- **Radoslav STOYANOV**, Co-chair Bulgarian Helsinki Committee
- **Maksim DELCHEV**, Jewish organisation “Shalom”
- **Simeon VASILEV**, GLAS Foundation
- **Sava PETROV**, Prosecutor, to present training events on hate crime for law enforcement  
*(10 minutes each)*

**12:05 – 12:50**      *Discussion with contributions from the floor*

**12:50- 14:30: Lunch break**

- *Buffet lunch in the venue’s restaurant*

**14h30 - 16h30: SESSION III**  
**HOW TO EFFECTIVELY INTEGRATE AND INCLUDE ROMA**

**Chair of the Session: Baki HYUSEINOV**, Deputy Chair of the Commission for Protection against Discrimination

**14:30 – 14:50**      **ECRI and Council of Europe standards on Roma**  
**Irena ILIEVA**, Vice Chair of ECRI and ECRI member in respect of Bulgaria

**14h50 – 15h50**      **Achievements and challenges in integration and inclusion of Roma in Bulgaria**

**Panellists**

- **Krasimir ASENOV**, Deputy Mayor of Plovdiv
  - **Ivaylo TARNEV**, Founder of Roma health mediators
  - **Irina ILIEVA**, Roma health mediator
  - **Asen KOLEV**, Chair of Roma NGO “Inforoma”
  - **Radsolav MISHKOV**, Ministry of Internal Affairs Academy
  - **Maria METHODIEVA**, the Trust for Social Achievement (to present the HERO project)
- (10 minutes each)*

**15:50 - 16:30**      *Discussion with contributions from the floor*

**16:30 – 17:00      Coffee break**

**17:00 - 17:30**      **CONCLUSIONS:**

- **Bertil COTTIER**, Chair of ECRI

**CLOSING REMARKS:**

- **Ana DZHUMALIEVA**, Chair of Commission for Protection against Discrimination