

ANNUAL REPORT ON ECRI'S ACTIVITIES

covering the period
from 1 January to 31 December 2014

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



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Preface

The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) is a mechanism which was established by the first Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe member States. The decision to establish ECRI is contained in the Vienna Declaration adopted by the first Summit on 9 October 1993. On 13 June 2002, the Committee of Ministers adopted an autonomous Statute for ECRI and thus consolidated its role as an independent human rights monitoring mechanism specialised in questions relating to racism and intolerance.

ECRI's task is to combat racism, xenophobia, antisemitism and intolerance at the level of greater Europe and from the perspective of the protection of human rights. ECRI's action covers all necessary measures to combat violence, discrimination and prejudice faced by persons or groups of persons, on grounds of "race", colour, language, religion, nationality or national or ethnic origin.

ECRI's members are appointed on the basis of their in-depth knowledge in the field of combating intolerance. They should have high moral authority and recognised expertise in dealing with racism, xenophobia, antisemitism and intolerance. They serve in their individual capacity, are independent and impartial in fulfilling their mandate, and do not receive any instructions from their government.

ECRI's statutory activities are: country monitoring; work on general themes; and relations with civil society. ECRI's strategy for constantly enhancing its activities is to take a step-by-step approach, building on the work it has already accomplished by evaluating, consolidating and extending its action.

Main trends

Introduction

1. Each year, as an introduction to its annual report, ECRI outlines the main trends in the fields of racism, racial discrimination¹, xenophobia, antisemitism and intolerance in Europe. The purpose of this exercise is to show the context in which ECRI must continue its efforts and step up its action in the future. The precise characteristics and extent of these trends, observed in the course of ECRI's various activities, vary from region to region and country to country. They are, however, sufficiently widespread to justify a special mention.

Online hate speech

2. The Internet has become an important vehicle for promoting racism and intolerance. Hate speech through social media is rapidly increasing and has the potential to reach a much larger audience than extremist print media were able to reach previously. In this context, ECRI continues to recommend that member States sign and ratify the Council of Europe's Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime, concerning the criminalisation of acts of a racist and xenophobic nature committed through computer systems.

¹ According to ECRI's General Policy Recommendation No. 7, racism is the belief that a ground such as "race", colour, language, religion, nationality or national or ethnic origin justifies contempt for a person or a group of persons, or the notion of superiority of a person or a group of persons. Racial discrimination is any differential treatment based on a ground such as "race", colour, language, religion, nationality or national or ethnic origin, which has no objective and reasonable justification.

Specialised Bodies²

3. The need to equip specialised bodies to fight against racism and intolerance with sufficient financial resources is crucial for their effectiveness and independence. ECRI has made recommendations to this effect to several governments. Since the onset of the current financial and economic crisis, the budgets of many specialised bodies have been reduced, precisely at a time when due to mounting social problems a general rise in racism and intolerance has been observed and the work of specialised bodies is more important than ever.

4. As a result of budgetary considerations there has also been a trend to merge specialised bodies with broader human rights institutions. While it is argued that this creates synergies between different areas of human rights work, the risk is high that the special expertise necessary to fight discrimination will be lost, especially when such mergers are not driven by a comprehensive policy, but solely by financial concerns.

5. On the positive side, several countries have started a process of decentralisation of specialised bodies. This includes the opening of regional or local offices to achieve greater proximity to victims of discrimination, especially in socially deprived areas. Another good practice is for specialised bodies not only to provide information in a variety of relevant languages used in a country, but also to accept complaints in languages other than the official one.

Under-reporting

6. These steps are also important in order to tackle the problem of under-reporting of discrimination. The full extent of this problem is difficult to measure. However, comparing official statistic with figures compiled by civil society organisations,

² Independent authorities expressly entrusted with the fight against racism, xenophobia, antisemitism, intolerance and discrimination on grounds such as ethnic origin, colour, citizenship, religion and language (racial discrimination), at national level.

suggest substantial discrepancies in many countries. In some countries, disincentives for bringing complaints remain a problem. Irregularly present migrants would, for example, often not even bring cases of racist violence to the attention of the police for fear of checks of their residence rights and potential detention and deportation. The establishments of so-called fire walls, such as refraining from automatic checks of residence status in cases of complaints about discrimination or violence, were proposed in some countries as a way forward.

Education and awareness-raising

7. In this context, it should be noted that the need for education and awareness-raising to combat hate crime and discrimination remained high. This refers to young people, but also to relevant professional groups, in particular members of the police and the judiciary, who are crucial in helping to tackle the problem of under-reporting; as well as journalists, whose work is central to combatting hate speech and ensuring a balanced and respectful public discourse. Several countries have made efforts in this direction, but more needs to be done.

Hate speech legislation

8. In some countries, legislation against hate speech has been disproportionately used against the historical ethnic and religious minorities it was supposed to protect; or used for the wrong reasons, including as a political tool. Stifling political dissent and criminalising legitimate expressions of grievances with regard to perceived discrimination and social exclusion, by referring to anti-hate speech legislation, is a worrying practice. Anti-hate speech legislation and its application always have to strike a delicate balance between the fundamental human rights of the freedom of speech and the right to be protected from discrimination.

The European Convention on Human Rights

9. Protocol No.12, which supplements the European Convention on Human Rights by prohibiting discrimination in general, has still only been ratified by 18 of the 47 member States of the Council of Europe. ECRI will continue to recommend ratification of this instrument in the course of its country monitoring. ECRI is also concerned by non-compliance with key ECHR judgments concerning issues coming within its mandate.

10. ECRI is pleased to note that its standards and country findings continue to be referred to by the European Court of Human Rights in its judgments. In 2014 the Court cited ECRI's work in the following judgments: *Abdu v. Bulgaria* (Application no. 26827/08), 11 March 2014; *Georgia v. Russia* (Application no. 13255/07), 3 July 2014; *Krupko and Others v. Russia* (Application no. 26587/07), 26 June 2014; *Antayev and Others v. Russia* (Application no. 37966/07), 3 July 2014; *Mansur Yalcin and Others v. Turkey* (Application no. 21163/11), 16 September 2014; *Begheluri and Others v. Georgia* (Application no. 28490/02), 7 October 2014; and *Cumhuriyetçi Eğitim Ve Kültür Merkezi Vakfı v. Turkey* (Application no. 32093/10), 2 December 2014.

Antisemitism

11. Insults and physical attacks on Jewish persons and institutions have increased dramatically. In some countries the number of antisemitic attacks more than doubled in 2014 compared to the previous year.

12. Attempts to rehabilitate or trivialise World War II collaborationist regimes and their actions, paired with revived sympathies for the extreme right, have been noticed in some countries. As a result, there is a growing trend of denying, or avoiding discussing publicly, occupation governments' complicity in the machinery of the Holocaust.

13. In many countries, growing antisemitic trends have been observed among Muslim immigrant communities, in particular the younger generation. Tensions rise in the wake of any renewed violence in the Middle East conflict and lead to sweeping generalisations against all Jews. During the 2014 Gaza operation, a surge of antisemitic hatred was witnessed across many European countries. In the ensuing public discourse, insufficient emphasis was placed on the need to distinguish between criticism of the actions of Israel – to the extent that the latter is held to the same standards as any other state - and the public expression of racism and hatred of Jewish people in general. In several countries, violent antisemitic attacks were carried out. Extra security was provided to Jewish institutions, but this could not prevent all acts of violence. Besides security, other measures such as inter-religious solidarity are needed to address the hatred.

Islamophobia

14. Europe also witnesses a growing trend of Islamophobia. This is often expressed in views that see Islam as inherently opposed to European values of democracy and secularism, and ignore the reality of Muslim communities. The rise of extremist and violent Islamist movements is often manipulated to portray Muslims in general as unable and unwilling to integrate into European societies and therefore as a security threat.

15. Populist movements claiming to protest against the alleged Islamisation of Europe mixed various aspects of Islamophobia with general xenophobic sentiments. It is frequently reported that women wearing a headscarf were sometimes subjected to verbal abuse and harassment in public.

16. There is a dangerous spiral of inter-related forms of racism developing. While some young Muslims become radicalised, Muslims in general become more often victims of a general trend of Islamophobia. This trend carries the risk of counteracting integration efforts and can further radicalise a growing number of young Muslims in Europe.

Anti-Black racism

17. Discrimination of people of African descent is still wide spread in many European countries. Reasons range from traditional racist stereotypes, often based on age-old images of Black people founded during the era of colonialism and slavery, to perceptions of Africans as unwanted economic migrants, to a fear of the “other”, in this case visibly symbolised by the different skin colour. The latter is particularly widespread in countries with little tradition of societal heterogeneity.

18. However, Black people are also discriminated in countries where Black communities have lived for many decades. They still live disproportionately often in socially deprived residential areas, are more frequently stopped and searched by the police, and have less favourable health care outcomes than white populations.

19. Another problem concerns the reproduction of stereotypical images of Black persons in cultural life. The ongoing public discussion about how to deal with this issue has shown very strong racist undertones among some commentators, which reveals the true extent of the problem.

Homo- and Transphobia

20. There is a very varied picture with regard to homo- and transphobia across Europe. While some countries have made further progress towards combating discrimination of LGBT persons, others still experience unacceptably high levels of stigma and intolerance. Some countries show high levels of discrimination against LGBT persons, visible in the lack of legislation to protect this group, or even in the existence of legislation to fight expressions of homosexuality. Incidents of hate speech, including from members of the political leadership, threats and acts of violence against LGBT persons and NGOs continue in several countries.

21. Even in countries where the political and legislative framework is geared more positively towards protecting LGBT persons from discrimination, public debates are often poisoned by hateful comments.

Roma and Travellers

22. The situation of Roma and Travellers remains of concern. In most member States, they are still marginalised in areas such as education, employment, housing and health. Many Roma do not have access to basic social services, as they are often not registered with the municipality due to the authorities' refusal to recognise their informal places of residence or because they do not possess identity documents. Segregation in schools also continued to exist, in spite of judgments by the European Court of Human Rights to end such practices. Cases of racist violence against Roma and ill-treatment committed by law enforcement officers were also a problem.

23. It is a major progress that all 28 EU member States and many other CoE member States have now adopted strategies or action plans for the integration of Roma. However, in many countries, their implementation remains insufficient. A major obstacle is the often insufficient funding and a lack of involvement of relevant authorities, as well as Roma communities themselves, in the development and implementation of such strategies and plans. The absence of quality data concerning the size and the living conditions of Roma communities in member States is another difficulty. Here, the positive contribution of the EU's Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) should be mentioned, which helped to generate more reliable data.

Refugees, asylum seekers, other migrants

24. The number of refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants entering Europe continues to increase, inter alia because of the ongoing civil war in Syria, as well as conflicts, insecurity and poverty in other parts of Asia and in Africa. Many migrants try to cross the Mediterranean Sea to reach the shores

of member States, often resulting in ship wrecks and the deaths of hundreds of people at a time. Those who make it, often face a grim reception, characterised by detention, insufficient social assistance and a hostile public opinion in most European countries.

Economic and financial crisis

25. The ongoing economic and financial crisis in Europe has led to a growing fear among many citizens of a hardening competition with newly arrived migrants, asylum seekers and refugees, for jobs, affordable housing, reduced social services and welfare benefits. Increasingly, the various groups of migrants are not seen as contributing to enriching European societies, but as a threat to accustomed standards of wealth and social stability. Groups of concern to ECRI are often particularly badly affected by the economic crisis, due to pre-existing high levels of social exclusion, including lower levels of education which make a readjustment in a contracting labour market more difficult. As a result, they are often also victimised because of their now reduced social status, leading to multiple discrimination.

Xenophobic Populist Parties

26. While discussing migration and the challenges that it poses is necessary and legitimate, it is often used and exploited as a topic for populist politics and election campaigning. The ensuing public discourse tends to blur distinctions between different groups of migrants; such as people moving within the EU, other migrant workers, refugees, asylum seekers and irregularly present migrants. Such generalised anti-immigration rhetoric was successfully used by populist parties during the election campaign to the European Parliament in May 2014. In this context, the overall model of multiculturalism was portrayed as a dangerous notion and a concept that has failed and is no longer desirable. Political parties with such an outlook achieved substantial electoral gains and even emerged as the strongest force in some countries.

ECRI's activities in 2014

1. Country-by-country approach

1. ECRI's statutory activities comprise firstly country monitoring work. ECRI closely examines the situation in each of the member States of the Council of Europe and draws up suggestions and proposals as to how the problems it has identified might be overcome. The aim is to formulate helpful and well-founded recommendations, which may assist governments in taking concrete and practical steps to counter racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, antisemitism and intolerance.

2. ECRI's reports are first sent in draft form to the member States concerned for confidential dialogue. Their contents are reviewed in the light of the national authorities' comments. They are then finally adopted and transmitted to the governments of the member States concerned, through the intermediary of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers.

3. ECRI's country-by-country approach concerns all Council of Europe member States on an equal footing. The reports for the first round were completed in late 1998. From January 1999 to the end of December 2002, ECRI worked on the second round of its country-by-country approach. From January 2003 to the end of December 2007, ECRI worked on the third round of its country-by-country approach. ECRI started its fourth round of reporting in 2008. This round differs from the previous ones in that it introduced the interim follow-up mechanism: ECRI requested priority implementation for up to three recommendations and asked the member State concerned to provide information in this connection within two years from publication of the report. In 2014, ECRI published its conclusions on the implementation of the priority recommendations it had made in reports published in 2011, namely on Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Lithuania, Monaco, Serbia, Spain and Turkey.

4. In 2014 ECRI published the last two reports of its fourth round of country monitoring. The report on Romania was published on 3 June 2014 and on Slovenia on 23 September 2014.

5. ECRI began its fifth round of country monitoring in 2013. This will focus on certain topics for in-depth analysis in all member States: legislative issues, hate speech, racist and homo/transphobic violence and integration policies. In addition, each report will deal with a certain number of topics specific to each country. These will address any other major “racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, antisemitism or intolerance” issues in the country concerned. Interim recommendations not implemented or only partially implemented during the fourth cycle will be followed-up as well. Finally, under its mandate to monitor intolerance against vulnerable groups, ECRI may address discrimination against LGBT communities in the section on country-specific issues.

6. In order to obtain as full a picture as possible, a contact visit is organised before the drafting of each new report. The visits provide an opportunity for ECRI Rapporteurs to meet officials from the various ministries and public authorities dealing with issues within ECRI’s remit. They also allow Rapporteurs to meet representatives of NGOs working in the field, as well as independent experts and other persons concerned by the fight against racism and intolerance.

7. In 2014, ECRI published the first five reports of its fifth round of country monitoring. Its reports on Belgium and Germany were published in February 2014 and its reports on Bulgaria, Slovakia and Switzerland in September 2014.

8. All reports published in 2014 have been translated into the national language(s) of the country concerned and steps have been taken to ensure that they are circulated as widely as possible among stakeholders at domestic level.

9. ECRI's reports received considerable media coverage. Reactions to these reports show how topical the issues discussed therein are and how urgent it is to ensure follow-up to their recommendations.

10. In 2014 ECRI carried out eight contact visits in Albania, Austria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Norway and Poland

11. To be able to maintain this rhythm of visits and the quality of the work which is expected of it under its Statute, ECRI needs a Secretariat with sufficient resources and expertise.

2. Work on general themes

General Policy Recommendations

12. ECRI's General Policy Recommendations, the second part of its statutory activities, are addressed to the governments of all member States; they cover important areas of current concern in the fight against racism and intolerance. They are intended to serve as guidelines for policy-makers when drawing up national strategies, programmes and projects.

13. In 2014 ECRI made good progress towards the adoption of two new General Policy Recommendations, which concern combating hate speech and safeguarding irregularly present migrants from racial discrimination respectively. Final adoption of these texts is expected in December 2015.

3. Relations with civil society

14. Combating racism and intolerance can only be effective if the message filters down to society in general. Awareness-raising and a communication strategy are, therefore, essential. ECRI attaches great importance to this third part of its statutory activities.

15. ECRI participated in and contributed to events organised by the civil society, such as a Wilton Park (United Kingdom) conference on addressing implementation gaps: improving co-operation between global and regional human rights mechanisms in January 2014 and a training session on Human Rights and Freedom of Religion or Belief for All, organised in Elstal (Germany) in November 2014 on the initiative of the European Baptist Federation, the Union of Evangelical Free Churches in Germany and the Church and Society Commission of CEC (Conference of European Churches).

16. ECRI's Secretariat attended and contributed to a round table on equality data collection organized by the European Network Against Racism (ENAR) and a meeting with the Migration Policy Group (MPG) in November in Brussels.

Organisation of national round tables in member States

17. As an important tool to facilitate dialogue between state and non-state actors on issues related to the fight against racism and intolerance, ECRI organises national round tables following the publication of its country-specific monitoring reports. These events are addressed to various actors in civil society as well as to government officials in order to discuss jointly how best to promote the implementation of ECRI's recommendations.

18. Three round tables were organised in 2014. The first took place in the Netherlands on 30 June and was organised in co-operation with the Netherlands Institute for Human Rights. A second round table was organised in Moldova on 30 September 2014, in co-operation with the Ministry of Justice and the Council on the Prevention and Elimination of Discrimination and Ensuring Equality of the Republic of Moldova. A third round table was organised in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in co-operation with the Institution of the Human Rights Ombudsman of Bosnia and Herzegovina. These events brought more visibility to ECRI's work and ensured greater impact for its recommendations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova and the Netherlands.

Communication strategy

19. Activities such as the publication of ECRI's country reports, country visits, its seminar with national Specialised Bodies, and its round tables in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova and the Netherlands attracted considerable media attention.

4. Cooperation with national Specialised Bodies to combat racism and racial discrimination

19. National Specialised Bodies are strategic partners for ECRI. A seminar of national Specialised Bodies was held from 22-23 May 2014 in Strasbourg. This seminar examined the role of national Specialised Bodies in supporting local authorities in the fight against racism and intolerance. The seminar's participants represented almost all member States' national Specialised Bodies, national Ombudsmen, representatives of regional and local authorities and a number of international organisations.

20. In addition, ECRI participated in a European Round Table on Racial/Ethnic Profiling at Police Controls, organised by the German Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency in Berlin in June 2014. ECRI continued co-operation with the European Network of Equality Bodies (EQUINET). ECRI reports make regular reference to EQUINET studies. The Executive Director of EQUINET participated in ECRI's seminar with national Specialised Bodies.

5. Other activities

21. ECRI participated in and contributed to many events as part of its co-operation with relevant bodies of the Council of Europe and other international organisations, which are described under the relevant section below.

22. Moreover, ECRI actively participated in events organised by national authorities, such as the second IDAHO forum held in Valetta, Malta in May 2014 and the VIII Warsaw Seminar on Equal Access to Rights Guaranteed under the System of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms – Current State of Affairs and Challenges, organised by the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Government Plenipotentiary for Equal Treatment in October 2014. ECRI also attended a high-level event organised jointly by the Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the European Commission to stress the importance of Equality policies in the European Union, held in Rome in 2014.

23. At its 65th plenary session on 9-12 December, ECRI held elections to the posts of two Vice-Chairs and one Bureau member. The elections were held in accordance with Articles 6 and 7 of ECRI's Rules of Procedure. The following persons were elected: Ms Barbara John (member in respect of Germany) was elected 1st Vice-Chair for one year and Mr Miroslaw Wyrzykowski (member in respect of Poland) was elected 2nd Vice-Chair for the same term. Mr Siniša Bjeković (member in respect of Montenegro), was elected a member of the Bureau for two years. Their terms of office begin on 1 January 2015.

Co-operation with relevant bodies of the Council of Europe and other international organisations

Council of Europe

1. In 2014, ECRI continued its co-operation with other Council of Europe monitoring bodies. In November, ECRI and the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities conducted a joint monitoring visit to Estonia. Also in November, ECRI's Chair and Bureau took part in a Sami awareness-raising conference with the bureaux of other Council of Europe bodies in the Human Dignity and Equality Unit, organised by the Council of Europe in co-operation with the Finnish authorities in November 2014.
2. ECRI has also contributed to awareness-raising activities related to the implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights and other Council of Europe Conventions. In June 2014, ECRI held an exchange of views with the President of the European Court of Human Rights. In April, ECRI participated in an International Conference organised by the Directorate of Human Rights of the Council of Europe on strengthening the capacity of lawyers and human rights defenders for domestic application of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and of the Revised European Social Charter (RESC) and in October in the Steering Committee for Human Rights' Drafting Group entitled Human Rights in Culturally Diverse Societies (CDDH-DC), set up to elaborate guidelines on the promotion and protection of human rights in culturally diverse societies. In December, ECRI participated in a workshop on Challenges of the Anti-discrimination Legislation in Georgia seen through the anti-discrimination standards set by the European Convention of Human Rights and other international standards.

3. In September 2014, ECRI participated in and contributed to a high-level Council of Europe Exchange on the religious dimension of intercultural dialogue held in Baku.

4. The Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe (the Congress) are represented at ECRI's plenary meetings and contribute to its work. In 2014, the Congress participated in ECRI's seminar with national Specialised Bodies on the role of national Specialised Bodies in supporting local authorities in the fight against racism and intolerance. ECRI held exchanges of views with members of the PACE at its plenary meetings. In December 2014 it held an exchange of views with the PACE General Rapporteur on combating racism and intolerance and with the General Rapporteur on the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people (LGBT). Similarly, ECRI contributes to the work and participates in events organised by these bodies, such as the meeting of the PACE Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination held in Vienna on 4-5 March 2014. ECRI holds regular exchanges of views with the Commissioner for Human Rights and his Office.

5. In March 2014, ECRI held an exchange of views with the President of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe and the Chair of the Human Rights Committee of the Conference of INGOs.

6. In general, ECRI is regularly updated on the work of other Council of Europe bodies dealing with issues related to racism and intolerance. ECRI's Secretariat provides these bodies with information on ECRI's activities.

United Nations

Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

7. In 2014, ECRI contributed to the 20th, 21st and 22nd sessions of the Universal Periodical Review with its country reports.

UN Conventions

8. ECRI reports make regular reference to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD). ECRI also calls upon states that have not yet made a declaration under Article 14 of ICERD, enabling individuals and groups of individuals to file petitions before the UN Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), to do so.

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

9. ECRI is regularly invited to participate in various meetings organised by the OHCHR and to submit contributions based on its monitoring and thematic work. Similarly OHCHR staff are regularly invited to ECRI's events. At its 63rd plenary meeting in March 2014, ECRI held an exchange of views with Mr Mutuma Ruteere, UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. The Chief of the Anti-Discrimination Section of the OHCHR participated in ECRI's seminar with national Specialised Bodies in Strasbourg in May. At its 64th plenary meeting in June 2014, ECRI held an exchange of views with Ambassador Mohamed Siad Douale, Chairman of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. ECRI's Secretariat took part in the eighth OHCHR/Council of Europe coordination meeting in Strasbourg in November 2014.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

10. ECRI has a close working relationship with UNHCR, facilitated by the UNHCR Representation to the European Institutions in Strasbourg. ECRI regularly receives input from UNHCR concerning its country visits, round tables and various legal issues.

Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

11. ECRI and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) continued to involve each other in their conferences and meetings. OSCE/ODIHR is systematically invited to and attends ECRI's national round tables and ECRI contributes regularly to OSCE/ODIHR meetings. There were several highlights of this regular co-operation in 2014: the Adviser on Combating Anti-Semitism, Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department of the OSCE/ODIHR attended ECRI's seminar with national specialised bodies held in Strasbourg in May 2014. In June 2014, ECRI held an exchange of views with three Personal Representatives of the OSCE, on combating antisemitism; on combating racism, xenophobia and discrimination, also focusing on intolerance and discrimination against Christians and members of other religions, and on combating intolerance and discrimination against Muslims respectively. ECRI's Chair attended the 10th anniversary of the OSCE's Berlin Declaration on Antisemitism in Berlin in November 2014. ECRI also participated in an OSCE HDIM side event on hate speech on line in collaboration with the Council of Europe's youth campaign. ECRI also participated in an OSCE conference on Freedom of Expression for Tolerance and Non-Discrimination, organised by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media in December.

12. OSCE/ODIHR and ECRI continue to attach particular importance to the fight against hate crime, an area of common interest also in the context of ECRI's fifth monitoring cycle, which focuses inter alia on hate speech and racist violence. The two bodies co-operate and benefit from each other's expertise and initiatives in this area: ECRI's country reports and General Policy Recommendations and ODIHR's compilation of data in annual reports entitled Hate Crimes in the OSCE Region – Incidents and Responses.

European Union

European Commission

13. The Directorate of Equality and the Directorate of Fundamental Rights and Union Citizenship of the Directorate General – Justice of the European Commission and ECRI's Secretariat keep each other informed of important developments in their work and exchange information on subjects of common interest.

Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA)

14. Cooperation between ECRI and FRA continued in 2014. ECRI's reports make regular reference to FRA's work, in particular the MIDIS survey. ECRI has provided inputs for the second wave of EU-MIDIS at a stakeholder meeting held in Vienna in March 2014. Collaboration with FRA also included discussions on enhancing co-operation between the relevant institutions and networks, particularly to deal with the themes of hate crime, Roma, migration and asylum and social rights in Europe. Throughout the year ECRI participated actively in several events organised by FRA, such as a seminar held in Thessaloniki in April 2014 on how to combat hate crime effectively and sustainably.

Joint statement

15. ECRI, FRA and the OSCE/ODIHR issued a statement on 21 March to mark the international day for the elimination of the racial discrimination.

Appendix I³

ECRI's membership

Name	Member in respect of	Term of office expires
Mr Christian ÅHLUND	Sweden	24 May 2015
Mr Jovan ANANIEV	“the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”	5 February 2018
Ms Raluca BESTELIU	Romania	31 December 2017
Mr Sinisa BJEKOVIC	Montenegro	9 December 2018
Mr Thomas BÜCHEL	Liechtenstein	27 May 2019
Mr Régis de GOUTTES	France	16 September 2019
Ms María ELOSEGUI ITXASO	Spain	31 December 2017
Mr Vitaliano ESPOSITO	Italy	31 December 2017
Mr Michael FARRELL	Ireland	23 November 2016
Mr Gilberto FELICI	San Marino	11 June 2018
Mr Fernando FERREIRA RAMOS	Portugal	31 December 2017

³ All tables in this appendix reflect the situation on 31 December 2014.

Name	Member in respect of	Term of office expires
Ms Nadejda HRIPTIEVSCHI	Moldova	15 September 2018
Ms Vasilika HYSI	Albania	31 December 2017
Mr Rovshan ISMAYILOV	Azerbaijan	31 December 2017
Mr Dalibor JÍLEK	Czech Republic	31 December 2017
Ms Barbara JOHN	Germany	31 December 2017
Mr Imre JUHÁSZ	Hungary	31 December 2017
Mr Vigen KOCHARYAN	Armenia	31 December 2017
Mr Baldur KRISTJÁNSSON	Iceland	31 December 2017
Ms Kristine KRUMA	Latvia	12 June 2017
Ms Mojca KUCLER DOLINAR	Slovenia	31 December 2017
Mr Volodymyr KULYK	Ukraine	10 December 2018
Mr Gün KUT	Turkey	31 December 2017
Ms Renee LAIVIERA	Malta	17 November 2019

Name	Member in respect of	Term of office expires
Mr Jean-Paul LEHNERS	Luxembourg	8 February 2016
Mr Šarūnas LIEKIS	Lithuania	31 December 2017
Ms Ülle MADISE	Estonia	31 December 2017
Mr Andreas PASCHALIDES	Cyprus	31 December 2017
Mr Stelios E. PERRAKIS	Greece	31 December 2017
Ms Vesna RAKIC-VODINELIC	Serbia	6 November 2017
Mr Predrag RAOSAVLJEVIC	Bosnia and Herzegovina	10 December 2018
Mr Jacint RIBERAYGUA CAELLES	Andorra	26 September 2016
Mr Jean-Charles SACOTTE	Monaco	6 December 2015
Ms Hendrika SAMSON	Netherlands	31 December 2017
Mr François SANT'ANGELO	Belgium	31 December 2017
Mr Gerald SCHÖPFER	Austria	27 February 2015
Ms Tena ŠIMONOVIĆ EINWALTER	Croatia	1 July 2019

Name	Member in respect of	Term of office expires
Ms Eva SMITH ASMUSSEN	Denmark	31 December 2017
Mr Sergey SOKOLOVSKIY	Russian Federation	31 December 2017
Mr Aslak SYSE	Norway	31 December 2017
Mr Daniel THÜRER	Switzerland	31 December 2018
Ms Reetta TOIVANEN	Finland	1 July 2019
Mr George TUGUSHI	Georgia	31 December 2017
Mr Michal VAŠEČKA	Slovakia	31 December 2017
Mr Blagoy VIDIN	Bulgaria	31 December 2017
Mr Michael WHINE	United Kingdom	17 September 2018
Mr Mirosław WYRZYKOWSKI	Poland	2 May 2017

Deputies to ECRI members

Name	Deputy in respect of	Term of office expires
Ms Doris ANGST	Switzerland	31 December 2018
Ms Cecilia CARDOGNA	San Marino	11 June 2018
Mr Patrick CHARLIER	Belgium	31 December 2017
Mr Stanislav DANIEL	Slovakia	31 December 2017
Mr Saša GAJIN	Serbia	6 November 2017
Ms Carolina HADJIATHANASIOU-SHIAMPTANI	Cyprus	31 December 2017
Ms Dženana HADŽIOMEROVIĆ	Bosnia and Herzegovina	10 December 2018
Ms Ketevan KHUTSISHVILI	Georgia	31 December 2017
Mr Oleksiy KRESIN	Ukraine	10 December 2018
Mr Paul Aarre LAPPALAINEN	Sweden	24 May 2015
Mr Alexis MARQUET	Monaco	6 December 2015
Ms Carmen QUESADA ALCALÁ	Spain	31 December 2017
Ms Anna RASTAS	Finland	1 July 2019

Observers to ECRI

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Ms Cheryl GILLAN

Mr Snorre Serigstad VALEN

Mr Khalid CHAOUKI

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

Ms Sherma BATSON

Holy See

Mr Jean-Pierre MACHELON

European Commission

Ms Pia LINDHOLM

Mexico

Mr Ricardo BUCIO

ECRI's Bureau

Mr Christian AHLUND
Chair
member in respect of Sweden

Ms Barbara JOHN
Vice-Chair
member in respect of Germany

Mr Jean-Paul LEHNERS
Bureau member
member in respect of Luxembourg

Mr Jacint RIBERAYGUA CAELLES
Bureau member
member in respect of Andorra

Mr Daniel THÜRER
Bureau member
member in respect of Switzerland

Mr Mirosław WYRZYKOWSKI
Bureau member
member in respect of Poland

Appendix II⁴

ECRI's Secretariat

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Tel: + 33 (0) 3 88 41 30 08

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Mr Thobias BERGMANN, Programme Adviser
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Mr Wolfram BECHTEL, Lawyer
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Mr Denis ROTH-FICHET, Lawyer
Tel: +33 (0) 3 90 21 56 27

Ms Sophie KURT TORUN, Researcher/Project Officer
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Ms Paula ECK-WALTERS, Documentalist
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Ms Sylvia LEHMANN, Assistant
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Ms Narindra RAVAHIMANANA, Assistant
Tel: +33 (0) 3 88 41 24 02

⁴ This appendix reflects the situation on 31 December 2014.

Secretariat's address

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Directorate of Human Dignity and Equality
Council of Europe
67075 STRASBOURG CEDEX
France

E-mail Secretariat: ecri@coe.int

Fax Secretariat: +33 (0) 3 88 41 39 87

Appendix III

Meetings held by ECRI in 2014

Plenary sessions

- 19-21 March 2014
- 17-20 June 2014
- 9-12 December 2014

Meetings of the Working Group on relations with civil society and specialised bodies

- 18 March 2014
- 9 May 2014
- 16 June 2014
- 8 December 2014

Meetings of the Working Group on Hate Speech

- 11 April 2014
- 17 October 2014
- 17 December 2014

Seminar with national Specialised Bodies to combat racism and racial discrimination on “The role of national Specialised Bodies in supporting local authorities in the fight against racism and intolerance”

- 22-23 May 2014

Bureau meetings

- 18 March 2014
- 16 June 2014
- 8 December 2014

Meetings of the Working Group on Irregular Migrants

- 3 March 2014
- 18 September 2014

National round tables

- The Hague: 30 June 2014
- Chisinau: 30 September 2014
- Sarajevo: 19 November 2014

Meetings of CBC Working Groups

Preparation of contact visits:

- Albania: 16 June 2014
- Austria: 24 July 2014
- Czech Republic: 10 October 2014
- Estonia: 19 September 2014
- France: 18 December 2014
- Georgia: 8 December 2014
- Greece: 20 January 2014
- Hungary: 18 March 2014
- Lithuania: 8 December 2014
- Monaco: 8 December 2014
- Norway: 13 January 2014
- Poland: 24 April 2014

Amendments:

- Albania: 9 December 2014
- Bulgaria: 19 March 2014
- Greece: 17 June 2014
- Hungary: 9 December 2014
- Norway: 17 June 2014
- Poland: 10 December 2014
- Slovakia: 19 March 2014
- Switzerland: 19 March 2014

Interim follow-up:

- Andorra: 11 December 2014
- Croatia: 10 December 2014
- Denmark: 10 December 2014
- Iceland: 18 June 2014
- Italy: 18 June 2014
- Latvia: 18 June 2014
- Luxembourg: 19 June 2014
- Montenegro: 19 June 2014
- Sweden: 9 December 2014
- Ukraine: 19 June 2014

Contact Visits

- Albania: 15-19 September 2014
- Austria: 2-7 November 2014
- Czech Republic: 23-28 November 2014
- Estonia: 17-21 November 2014
- Greece: 9-14 March 2014
- Hungary: 1-6 June 2014
- Norway: 9-14 March 2014
- Poland: 22-27 June 2014

Appendix IV

List of publications⁵

- ECRI General Policy Recommendation No.1: Combating racism, xenophobia antisemitism and intolerance (Strasbourg, 4 October 1996)
- ECRI General Policy Recommendation No.2: Specialised bodies to combat racism, xenophobia, antisemitism and intolerance at national level (Strasbourg, 13 June 1997)
- ECRI General Policy Recommendation No.3: combating racism and intolerance against Roma/Gypsies (Strasbourg, 6 March 1998)
- ECRI General Policy Recommendation No.4: National surveys on the experience and perception of discrimination and racism from the point of view of potential victims (Strasbourg, 6 March 1998)
- ECRI General Policy Recommendation No.5: Combating intolerance and discrimination against Muslims (Strasbourg, 27 April 2000)
- ECRI General Policy Recommendation No.6: Combating the dissemination of racist, xenophobic and antisemitic material via the Internet (Strasbourg, 15 December 2000)
- ECRI General Policy Recommendation No.7: National legislation to combat racism and racial discrimination (Strasbourg, 13 December 2002)
- ECRI General Policy Recommendation No.8: Combating racism while fighting terrorism (Strasbourg, 8 June 2004)
- ECRI General Policy Recommendation No.9: The fight against antisemitism (Strasbourg, 9 September 2004)

⁵ Publications that are out of date no longer figure on this list.

- ECRI General Policy Recommendation No.10: Combating racism and racial discrimination in and through school education (Strasbourg, 21 March 2007)
- ECRI General Policy Recommendation No.11: Combating racism and racial discrimination in policing (Strasbourg, 4 October 2007)
- ECRI General Policy Recommendation No.12: Combating racism and racial discrimination in the field of sport (Strasbourg, 19 March 2009)
- ECRI General Policy Recommendation No.13: Combating anti-Gypsyism and discrimination against Roma (Strasbourg, 19 September 2011)
- ECRI General Policy Recommendation No.14: Combating racism and racial discrimination in employment (Strasbourg, 25 September 2012)
- ECRI's country-by-country approach:
 - First round:
 - Volume I (Strasbourg, September 1997)
 - Volume II (Strasbourg, March 1998)
 - Volume III (Strasbourg, 15 June 1998)
 - Volume IV (Strasbourg, 26 January 1999)
 - Volume V (Strasbourg, 13 March 1999)
 - Volume VI (Strasbourg, 24 May 1999)
 - Volume VII (Strasbourg, 9 November 1999)

→ Second round:

- Albania (Strasbourg, 3 April 2001)
 - Andorra (Strasbourg, 15 April 2003)
 - Armenia (Strasbourg, 8 July 2003)
 - Austria (Strasbourg, 3 April 2001)
 - Azerbaijan (Strasbourg, 15 April 2003)
 - Belgium (Strasbourg, 21 March 2000)
 - Bulgaria (Strasbourg, 21 March 2000)
 - Croatia (Strasbourg, 3 July 2001)
 - Cyprus (Strasbourg, 3 July 2001)
 - Czech Republic (Strasbourg, 21 March 2000)
 - Denmark (Strasbourg, 3 March 2001)
 - Estonia (Strasbourg, 23 April 2002)
 - Finland (Strasbourg, 23 July 2002)
 - France (Strasbourg, 27 June 2000)
 - Georgia (Strasbourg, 23 April 2002)
 - Germany (Strasbourg, 3 July 2001)
 - Greece (Strasbourg, 27 June 2000)
 - Hungary (Strasbourg, 21 March 2000)
 - Iceland (Strasbourg, 8 July 2003)
 - Ireland (Strasbourg, 23 April 2002)
 - Italy (Strasbourg, 23 April 2002)
 - Latvia (Strasbourg, 23 July 2002)
 - Liechtenstein (Strasbourg, 15 April 2003)
 - Lithuania (Strasbourg, 15 April 2003)
 - Luxembourg (Strasbourg, 8 July 2003)
 - Malta (Strasbourg, 23 July 2002)
 - Republic of Moldova (Strasbourg, 15 April 2003)
 - The Netherlands (Strasbourg, 13 November 2001)
 - Norway (Strasbourg, 27 June 2000)
 - Poland (Strasbourg, 27 June 2000)
 - Portugal (Strasbourg, 4 November 2002)
 - Romania (Strasbourg, 23 April 2002)
 - Russian Federation (Strasbourg, 13 November 2001)
 - San Marino (Strasbourg, 4 November 2003)
 - Slovakia (Strasbourg, 27 June 2000)
 - Slovenia (Strasbourg, 8 July 2003)
 - Spain (Strasbourg, 8 July 2003)
 - Sweden (Strasbourg, 15 April 2003)
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- Switzerland (Strasbourg, 21 March 2000)
- “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” (Strasbourg, 3 April 2001)
- Turkey (Strasbourg, 3 July 2001)
- Ukraine (Strasbourg, 23 July 2002)
- United Kingdom (Strasbourg, 3 April 2001)
- Compilation of second round reports (Strasbourg, February 2004)

→ Third round:

- Albania (Strasbourg, 14 June 2005)
- Andorra (Strasbourg, 12 February 2008)
- Armenia (Strasbourg, 13 February 2007)
- Austria (Strasbourg, 15 February 2005)
- Azerbaijan (Strasbourg, 24 May 2007)
- Belgium (Strasbourg, 27 January 2004)
- Bosnia and Herzegovina (Strasbourg, 15 February 2005)
- Bulgaria (Strasbourg, 27 January 2004)
- Croatia (Strasbourg, 14 June 2005)
- Cyprus (Strasbourg, 16 May 2006)
- Czech Republic (Strasbourg, 8 June 2004)
- Denmark (Strasbourg, 16 May 2006)
- Estonia (Strasbourg, 21 February 2006)
- Finland (Strasbourg, 24 May 2007)
- France (Strasbourg, 15 February 2005)
- Georgia (Strasbourg, 13 February 2007)
- Germany (Strasbourg, 8 June 2004)
- Greece (Strasbourg, 8 June 2004)
- Hungary (Strasbourg, 8 June 2004)
- Iceland (Strasbourg, 13 February 2007)
- Ireland (Strasbourg, 24 May 2007)
- Italy (Strasbourg, 16 May 2006)
- Latvia (Strasbourg, 12 February 2008)
- Liechtenstein (Strasbourg, 29 April 2008)
- Lithuania (Strasbourg, 21 February 2006)
- Luxembourg (Strasbourg, 16 May 2006)
- Malta (Strasbourg, 29 April 2008)
- Republic of Moldova (Strasbourg, 29 April 2008)
- Monaco (Strasbourg, 24 May 2007)

- Netherland (Strasbourg, 12 February 2008)
- Norway (Strasbourg, 27 January 2004)
- Poland (Strasbourg, 14 June 2005)
- Portugal (Strasbourg, 13 February 2007)
- Romania (Strasbourg, 21 February 2006)
- Russian Federation (Strasbourg, 16 May 2006)
- San Marino (Strasbourg, 29 April 2008)
- Serbia (Strasbourg, 29 April 2008)
- Slovakia (Strasbourg, 27 January 2004)
- Slovenia (Strasbourg, 13 February 2007)
- Spain (Strasbourg, 21 February 2006)
- Sweden (Strasbourg, 14 June 2005)
- Switzerland (Strasbourg, 27 January 2004)
- "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" (Strasbourg, 15 February 2005)
- Turkey (Strasbourg, 15 February 2005)
- Ukraine (Strasbourg, 12 February 2008)
- United Kingdom (Strasbourg, 14 June 2005)

→ Fourth round:

- Albania (Strasbourg, 2 March 2010)
- Andorra (Strasbourg, 22 May 2012)
- Armenia (Strasbourg, 9 February 2011)
- Austria (Strasbourg, 2 March 2010)
- Azerbaijan (Strasbourg, 31 May 2011)
- Belgium (Strasbourg, 26 May 2009)
- Bosnia and Herzegovina (Strasbourg, 8 February 2011)
- Bulgaria (Strasbourg, 24 February 2009)
- Croatia (Strasbourg, 25 September 2012)
- Cyprus (Strasbourg, 31 May 2011)
- Czech Republic (Strasbourg, 15 September 2009)
- Denmark (Strasbourg, 22 May 2012)
- Estonia (Strasbourg, 2 March 2010)
- Finland (Strasbourg, 9 July 2013)
- France (Strasbourg, 15 June 2010)
- Georgia (Strasbourg, 15 June 2010)
- Germany (Strasbourg, 26 May 2009)
- Greece (Strasbourg, 15 September 2009)
- Hungary (Strasbourg, 24 February 2009)

- Iceland (Strasbourg, 21 February 2012)
- Ireland (Strasbourg, 19 February 2013)
- Italy (Strasbourg, 21 February 2012)
- Latvia (Strasbourg, 21 February 2012)
- Liechtenstein (Strasbourg, 19 February 2013)
- Lithuania (Strasbourg, 13 September 2011)
- Luxembourg (Strasbourg, 21 February 2012)
- Malta (Strasbourg, 15 October 2013)
- Republic of Moldova (Strasbourg, 15 October 2013)
- Monaco (Strasbourg, 8 February 2011)
- Montenegro (Strasbourg, 21 February 2012)
- Netherlands (Strasbourg, 15 October 2013)
- Norway (Strasbourg, 24 February 2009)
- Poland (Strasbourg, 15 June 2010)
- Portugal (Strasbourg, 9 July 2013)
- Romania (Strasbourg, 3 June 2014)
- Russian Federation (Strasbourg, 15 October 2013)
- San Marino (Strasbourg, 9 July 2013)
- Serbia (Strasbourg, 31 May 2011)
- Slovakia (Strasbourg, 26 May 2009)
- Slovenia (Strasbourg, 16 September 2014)
- Spain (Strasbourg, 8 February 2011)
- Sweden (Strasbourg, 25 September 2012)
- Switzerland (Strasbourg, 15 September 2009)
- “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (Strasbourg, 15 June 2010)
- Turkey (Strasbourg, 8 February 2011)
- Ukraine (Strasbourg, 21 February 2012)
- United Kingdom (Strasbourg, 2 March 2010)

→ Follow-up recommendations fourth round:

- Albania (Strasbourg, 19 February 2013)
- Armenia (Strasbourg, 25 February 2014)
- Austria (Strasbourg, 19 February 2013)
- Azerbaijan (Strasbourg, 3 June 2014)
- Belgium (Strasbourg, 22 May 2012)
- Bosnia and Herzegovina (Strasbourg, 25 February 2014)
- Bulgaria (Strasbourg, 21 February 2012)
- Cyprus (Strasbourg, 3 June 2014)

- Czech Republic (Strasbourg, 22 May 2012)
- Estonia (Strasbourg, 19 February 2013)
- France (Strasbourg, 9 July 2013)
- Georgia (Strasbourg, 15 October 2013)
- Germany (Strasbourg, 22 May 2012)
- Greece (Strasbourg, 25 September 2012)
- Hungary (Strasbourg, 21 February 2012)
- Lithuania (Strasbourg, 3 June 2014)
- Monaco (Strasbourg, 3 June 2014)
- Norway (Strasbourg, 21 February 2012)
- Poland (Strasbourg, 9 July 2013)
- Serbia (Strasbourg, 3 June 2014)
- Slovakia (Strasbourg, 22 May 2012)
- Spain (Strasbourg, 25 February 2014)
- Switzerland (Strasbourg, 22 May 2012)
- “The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”
(Strasbourg, 9 July 2013)
- Turkey (Strasbourg, 25 February 2014)
- United Kingdom (Strasbourg, 19 February 2013)

→ Fifth round:

- Belgium (Strasbourg, 25 February 2014)
 - Bulgaria (Strasbourg, 16 September 2014)
 - Germany (Strasbourg, 25 February 2014)
 - Slovakia (Strasbourg, 16 September 2014)
 - Switzerland (Strasbourg, 16 September 2014)
- Proceedings of the Seminar “Combating racism while respecting freedom of expression”, 16 -17 November 2006
(Strasbourg, July 2007)
 - “Ethnic” statistics and data protection in the Council of Europe countries, by Patrick Simon, *Institut National d’Etudes Démographiques* (Strasbourg, November 2007)