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## **Combating racial discrimination and intolerance in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Round Table of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) and the Institution of the Human Rights Ombudsman of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in Sarajevo**

**Date:** 19 November 2014

**Venue:** Hotel Bristol, Sarajevo

**Organisers:** ECRI in co-operation with the Institution of the Human Rights Ombudsman of Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Objectives:** provide the participants with the opportunity to discuss the follow-up to the recommendations contained in ECRI's monitoring report on Bosnia and Herzegovina, published in 2011 and the relevant conclusions published in 2014.

The round table will be divided into four sessions:

- The main findings of ECRI's report;
- Legislative and institutional framework for combating racism and racial discrimination;
- Combating hate speech;
- Discrimination-free education as a tool for social integration.

Opening statements will be made by Damir Ljubić, Minister of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Christian Ahlund, Chair of ECRI, and Ljubomir Sandić, chairman of the Institution of the Human Rights Ombudsman of Bosnia and Herzegovina. ECRI's report on Bosnia and Herzegovina will be presented by Barbara John and Vigen Kocharyan, ECRI members.

In addition to national and local authorities, the round table will bring together representatives of international organisations and NGOs, as well as members of groups of concern to ECRI. This event aims at contributing positively to the national debate on combating racial discrimination and intolerance in the country.

In its 2011 report on Bosnia and Herzegovina, ECRI expressed concern about issues such as: the need to increase the training on the Law on the Prevention of All Forms of Discrimination, and on issues pertaining to racial discrimination in general; to take measures to target the use of ethnically inflammatory discourse by political leaders; and to end racial discrimination and segregation in the areas of education, employment, housing and health.

The round table will start at 9 am and end at 5 pm **on Wednesday 19 November 2014.**

**A press conference will take place at the Hotel Bristol at 8.30 on the same day, before the round table.**

Link to the programme: [English](#)

Link to ECRI's report: [English](#) [Official language](#)

Link to ECRI's Conclusions [English](#) [Official language](#)

Link to the conclusions by  
Ms Barbara John, Vice-Chair of ECRI [English](#)

Link to the conclusions by  
Mr Ljubomir Sandić, Ombudsman

English

*ECRI is a human rights body of the Council of Europe, composed of independent experts, which monitors problems of racism, xenophobia, antisemitism, intolerance and discrimination on grounds such as "race", national/ethnic origin, colour, citizenship, religion and language (racial discrimination); it prepares reports and issues recommendations to member States.*

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