

[Press release in Montenegrin](#)

Combating racial discrimination and intolerance in Montenegro: Round Table of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) in Podgorica

Date: 7 October 2013

Venue: Podgorica – Apart Hotel Premier

Organisers: ECRI in co-operation with the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms (National Ombudsman)

Participants will discuss the follow-up given to the recommendations contained in ECRI's 2011 report on Montenegro. The round table will be divided into three sessions:

- The general situation in Montenegro as reflected in ECRI's report;
- The legislative and institutional framework for combating racism and racial discrimination;
- The integration of Roma.

The event will be opened by Eva Smith, Chair of ECRI, and Šučko Baković, Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms. Opening speeches will be given by Ranko Krivokapić, President of the Montenegrin parliament and Suad Numanović, Minister for Human and Minority Rights. ECRI's first report on Montenegro will be presented by Eva Smith and Baldur Kristjánsson, ECRI member in respect of Iceland.

In addition to central and local authority officials, the round table will bring together representatives of the justice system, international organisations, NGOs, minority groups and civil society. This event aims at contributing positively to the national debate on combating racial discrimination and intolerance in Montenegro, as well as raising awareness among the general public about these issues.

In its [first report on Montenegro](#) of December 2011, ECRI expressed its concern about some issues, such as the extreme poverty and hardship faced by a substantial part of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian population and the legal status of "displaced" and "internally displaced" persons. ECRI also made a certain number of recommendations to the Montenegrin authorities, among which the following two will be revisited by the end of next year:

- strengthen the initial and in-service training provided to police, lawyers, public prosecutors and judges on issues related to equal treatment and non-discrimination
- find standard accommodation all around the town or the country for the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian (RAE) inhabitants of Konik, and close down the camp.

The round table is **open to the press**. It will start at **9 am** and end at **5 pm** on **Monday 7 October 2013**.

Link to the programme in: [English](#) [Montenegrin](#)

[Conclusions](#)

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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For more information on ECRI: www.coe.int/ecri