

Combating racial discrimination and intolerance in the Slovak Republic: a Round Table of the Anti-racism Commission of the Council of Europe in Bratislava

Strasbourg, 20.09.2017 - In co-operation with the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights (SNCHR), the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) is organising a round table in Bratislava on 28 September 2017 to discuss the follow-up to the recommendations of its [2014 report on Slovakia](#) and its [2017 Conclusions](#).

The round table aims to contribute to the national debate on combating racial discrimination and intolerance in Slovakia, as well as to raise awareness among the general public about these issues. The event will bring together authorities, academics, representatives of the judiciary and the law enforcement, international organisations and NGOs, as well as members of vulnerable groups of concern to ECRI. The round table will be divided into the following three sessions:

- ECRI's Report on the Slovak Republic;
- Legislative and institutional framework for combating Racism and Racial Discrimination;
- Combating Hate Speech.

The event will be opened by Christian Ahlund, ECRI's chair, Lucia Žitňanská, Minister of Justice of the Slovak Republic and Katarína Szabová, Executive Director of the SNCHR. ECRI rapporteurs Úlle Madise and Barbara John will present the report on Slovakia. Christian Ahlund and Katarína Szabová will close the event.

In its 2014 report, ECRI expressed concern about a number of issues, such as loopholes in the criminal law legislation regarding racist motivation, challenges with application of the Anti-discrimination Act in practice, effective functioning of the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights, anti-“minorities” rhetoric and offensive discourse targeting sexual orientation among politicians, hate speech on the Internet and in the traditional media, as well as failures in the implementation of the Roma integration programme.

ECRI recommended to adopt legislative changes to tackle racism and racial discrimination, to reform SNCHR, to introduce mechanism for collecting joint data on hate speech incidents, to adopt legislation banning political parties openly hostile to human rights, to ratify the Additional Protocol the Convention on Cybercrime. ECRI also encouraged the media to ensure better compliance with their ethical standards.

The round table will start at 9 am and end at 4:30 pm on Thursday 28 September 2017 at Austria Trend Hotel, Vysoká 2/A, 811 06 Bratislava. The event is open to the press.

Link to the programme:	English	Slovak
Link to ECRI's report:	English	Slovak
Conclusions	English	

ECRI is a human rights body of the Council of Europe, composed of independent experts, which monitors issues relating to 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.

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

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