

Combating racial discrimination in Georgia: Round Table of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) in Tbilisi

Date: 12 October 2011

Venue: Tbilisi – Courtyard Marriott Hotel

Organised by: the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) of the Council of Europe, in co-operation with the Public Defender of Georgia and with the support of UNDP Georgia.

Participants will discuss the follow-up given to the recommendations contained in ECRI's 2010 report on Georgia concerning a number of themes divided into four sessions:

- The general situation in Georgia as reflected in ECRI's report;
- Legislative and institutional framework for combating racial discrimination;
- Preventing and effectively responding to racism;
- Integration.

The event will be opened by Nils Muiznieks, Chair of ECRI. Opening speeches will be given also by David Bakradze, Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia, George Tugushi, Public Defender of Georgia and Jamie McGoldrick, Resident Representative of UNDP Georgia. Eva Smith Asmussen, Member of ECRI, will present ECRI's last report on Georgia. There will be a number of speakers, including senior Georgian Government representatives. In addition to representatives of the authorities, the round table will bring together the Parliament, the justice system and academia, as well as NGOs, trade unions and religious representatives.

In its [third report on Georgia of June 2010](#) ECRI expressed its concern about persisting problems such as the fact that members of ethnic minorities still face exclusion due to their lack of command of Georgian and that Roma remain in a vulnerable position.

ECRI made also a certain number of recommendations to the Georgian authorities, among which the following three will be revisited in 2012:

- Reform the teaching of Georgian to ethnic minority pupils;
- Devise an integration strategy for Meskhetian Turks explaining the historical reasons for their return;
- Improve the teaching of Georgian to ethnic-minority students of the Zurab Zhvania Public Administration School and assist, among others, ethnic-minority graduates to find appropriate jobs.

The round table is **open to the press**. It will start at **9.30 am** and end at **6.30 pm** on **Wednesday 12 October 2011**.

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[Link to the programme](#)

ECRI is a human rights body of the Council of Europe, composed of independent experts, which monitors problems of racism, discrimination on grounds of ethnic origin, citizenship, colour, religion and language, as well as xenophobia, antisemitism and intolerance, prepares reports and issues recommendations to member States. For more information on ECRI: www.coe.int/ecri