

APPENDIX

ECRI wishes to point out that the analysis contained in its second report on Bulgaria, is dated 18 June 1999, and that any subsequent development is not taken into account.

In accordance with ECRI's country-by-country procedure, a national liaison officer was nominated by the authorities of Bulgaria to engage in a process of confidential dialogue with ECRI on its draft text on Bulgaria and a number of his comments were taken into account by ECRI, and integrated into the report.

However, following this dialogue, the national liaison officer expressly requested that the following observations on the part of the authorities of Bulgaria be reproduced as an appendix to ECRI's report.

OBSERVATIONS PROVIDED BY THE AUTHORITIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA CONCERNING ECRI'S REPORT ON BULGARIA

With respect to paragraph 24, it should be clarified that the right to peaceful assembly is explicitly guaranteed by the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria. Article 43 of the Constitution provides that "Citizens shall have the right to peaceful and unarmed assembly for meetings and manifestations" and that "The procedure for organizing and holding of meetings and manifestations shall be established by law".

It should also be pointed out that ethnic identity in Bulgaria is a matter of free personal choice. Moreover, Article 6 (2) of the Constitution of Bulgaria stipulates that "There shall be no privileges or restrictions of rights on the grounds of race, nationality, ethnic self-identity, sex, origin, religion, education, opinion, political affiliation, personal or social status or property status". Accordingly, during the latest (1992) census in Bulgaria, 10 803 individuals self-identified themselves as being Macedonian. Of these 3 109 had also declared that their mother tongue was Macedonian (Bulgarian for the rest). Those individuals enjoy fully and effectively all the rights and freedoms guaranteed to all Bulgarian citizens, including the right to peaceful assembly.