

**EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF SOCIAL RIGHTS
COMITE EUROPEEN DES DROITS SOCIAUX**



25 March 2009

Case document No. 9

**International Centre for the Legal Protection of Human Rights
(INTERIGHTS) v. Croatia**
Complaint No. 45/2007

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM INTERIGHTS

Registered at the Secretariat on 6 March 2009

5 March 2009

Executive Secretary
Acting on behalf of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe
Secretariat of the European Social Charter
Directorate General of Human Rights -- DG II
Council of Europe
F-67075 Strasbourg CEDEX
France

Re: Update on COMPLAINT 45/2007,
Interights v Croatia

Dear Mr Brillat,

INTERIGHTS and its advisers, CESI and the Center for Reproductive Rights, submit this letter to update the Committee on recent issues concerning the above-referenced complaint.

As referenced in our response to the State's observations in July 2008, the sexuality education pilot programme was completed in June 2008. According to information provided by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports ('the MSES'), an evaluation of the pilot programme was undertaken by the National Centre for External Evaluation of Education (in cooperation with the Institute for Social Research Ivo Pilar, School of Public Health Andrija Stampar and Croatian National Institute of Public Health) and in October 2008 this evaluation was complete. To this date, the MSES did not issue any decision concerning implementation of health education programmes in schools. Thus, students remain without regular nor mandatory sexuality education.

In addition, repeated requests to the MSES by The Forum, one of the 2 organizations behind the piloted programmes, and other stakeholders to obtain the results of the evaluation have produced no results. For example, three letters of request to release the evaluation results were sent to the MSES under the Act on the Right to Access Information ('the Act') from the Civic Coalition to Stop High Risk Sexual Education, an umbrella organization which consists of 174 civil society organizations, 367 individuals and professionals on November 24, 2008, January 16, 2009, and February 09, 2009. Despite the Act granting a right to access information possessed, disposed of or controlled by public authorities and giving those public authorities a 15 day period to respond to the request, the MSES has to date failed to respond in any manner to these requests.

A presentation of the evaluation results was given at the Institute for Social Research Ivo Pilar on December 19, 2008 but this was not a public presentation and the piloted programmes and other stakeholders were not invited.

As a result, to date there continues to be no regular nor mandatory sexuality education programme being provided in schools in Croatia.

Yours sincerely

Iain Byrne
INTERIGHTS



Sanja Cesar
CESI, adviser



Christina Zampas,
Center for Reproductive Rights, adviser