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COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

**EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF SOCIAL RIGHTS
COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DES DROITS SOCIAUX**

17 January 2014

Case Document No. 5

Association for the Protection of All Children (APPROACH) Ltd v. Cyprus
Complaint No. 97/2013

**RESPONSE BY APPROACH
TO THE GOVERNMENT'S SUBMISSIONS
ON THE MERITS**

Registered at the Secretariat on 17 January 2014

APPROACH Ltd

Response to the Submission of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus on the merits of Complaint No. 97/2013, Association for the Protection of All Children (APPROACH) Ltd v. Cyprus

January 2014

We were delighted to see in the Government's Submission on admissibility (registered on 2 May 2013) the indication that: "The Government will proceed within the next few weeks with the amendment of the Children Law and deletion of clause 6 of article 54. Actually all the preparatory work has been done and the only thing that remains is the approval of the House of Representatives."

The Government's further Submissions on the merits, registered on 24 September, further note: "A Bill amending the Children Law by the deletion of clause 6 of article 54 was enacted and published in the Government Gazette on 21/6/2013. The Government of Cyprus with its letters dated 23/5/2013 and 9/7/2013 addressed to Mr R. Brillat, Executive Secretary of the European Committee of Social Rights, copies of which are attached herewith, informed the Committee of the enactment of the said Law with a copy of the referred Law..."

We believe that the deletion of this provision – now confirmed – leaves clarity and consistency in the legislation that all corporal punishment of children is prohibited, in compliance with the Charter.

We welcome this further indication of the Government's commitment to the protection of children from all forms of violence and would propose that our Complaint is withdrawn.