



**ECRI** European Commission against Racism and Intolerance  
Commission européenne contre le racisme et l'intolérance



Albanian Chairmanship  
Council of Europe  
May - November 2012

Présidence albanaise  
Conseil de l'Europe  
mai - novembre 2012



## **“Combating racial discrimination and intolerance in Albania” Round Table**

**organised by ECRI in co-operation with the People’s Advocate and  
the Commissioner for the Protection from Discrimination**

**on the occasion of the Albanian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers  
of the Council of Europe**

**Tirana, 2 October 2012**  
Tirana International Hotel

PROGRAMME

**REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS: 8:30 – 9:00**

9:00 – 9:30

**OPENING**

**Statements by Authorities and Organisers**

- Qirjako Qirko, Director, Directorate of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Jenő Kaltenbach, Chair of ECRI
- Igli Totozani, People's Advocate
- Irma Baraku, Commissioner for the Protection from Discrimination

<b>SESSION I – ECRI'S REPORT ON ALBANIA</b>
<b>Chair: Jenő Kaltenbach, Chair of ECRI</b>

9:30 – 9:50

**ECRI's Report: main recommendations**

Jean-Charles Sacotte and Abdel Hamid Beyuki, ECRI members

9:50 – 10:00

**CERD\*'s Concluding Observations and ECRI's Report:  
common areas of concern**

Gün Kut, member of CERD and ECRI

10:00 – 10:15

**Measures to follow up on ECRI's and CERD's  
recommendations**

Brunilda Minarolli, Head of Human Rights, Minority and Reporting Unit, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

10:15 – 10:45

*Discussion*

10:45 – 11:00

*Coffee break*

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\* UN Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

\* "Racial discrimination" means any differential treatment based on a ground such as "race", colour, language, religion, nationality or national or ethnic origin, which has no objective and reasonable justification.

**SESSION II – LEGISLATIVE AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR COMBATING  
RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION\***

**Chair: Brunilda Minarolli, Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

- 11:00 – 11:15                      **European standards: Case law of the ECHR\* and ECRI's  
General Policy Recommendation No. 7**  
Stephanos Stavros, Executive Secretary to ECRI
- 11:15 – 11:30                      **Challenges in the application of Law No. 10 221 on Protection  
from Discrimination: Role of the Commissioner for the  
Protection from Discrimination**  
Irma Baraku, Commissioner for the Protection from Discrimination
- 11:30 – 11:45                      **Challenges in the application of Law No. 8454 on the People's  
Advocate**  
Igli Totozani, People's Advocate
- 11:45 – 12:00                      *Discussion*
- 12:00 – 12:15                      **Role of Civil Society**  
Vjollca Meçaj, Executive Director, Albanian Helsinki Committee
- 12:15 – 13:00                      *Discussion*
- 13:00 – 14:00                      *Lunch break: open buffet hosted by the Chair of ECRI*

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\* European Court of Human Rights.

**SESSION III – VISIBILITY, REPRESENTATION AND CONSULTATION OF  
VULNERABLE GROUPS (panel discussion)**

**Chair: Vasilika Hysi, ECRI member**

14:00 – 14:30

- **Giving vulnerable groups a voice in the fight against discrimination:**
  - **Strengthening consultative mechanisms**
  - **Overcoming political under-representation**
- **Evaluation of the situation of vulnerable groups through the 2011 census:**
  - **Challenges faced and lessons learned**
  - **Collection of data on vulnerable groups**

Panelists:

- Bledar Bashanovic, State Committee for Minorities
- Gjergji Sinani, Member of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities
- Arjan Lile, "Sfinski" Association
- Ledia Thomo, Director, Household Survey Directorate, National Institute for Statistics

14:30 – 15:15

*Contributions and questions from the floor*

15:15 – 15:30

*Coffee break*

## SESSION IV – INTEGRATION OF ROMA (panel discussion)

Chair: Igli Totozani, People's Advocate

15:30 – 16:00

- **Implementation of the National Strategy for Improving the Living Conditions of the Roma Community**
- **How to improve access of Roma to housing, education, employment and health**
- **Overcoming barriers for providing identity documents to Roma**
- **Local initiatives to empower Roma**

Panelists:

- Ilda Bozo, Directorate of Monitoring of Inter-sectorial Strategies, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
- Albana Shtylla, Director of Private Office, People's Advocate
- Julia Cepi, Representative of the Municipality of Shkoder
- Ilvia Bajrami, Roma Active Albania
- Dritan Nelaj, Open Society Foundation for Albania
- Helen l'Hanson, Save the Children Albania

16:00 – 16:45

*Contributions and questions from the floor*

16:45 – 17:00

### **CONCLUSIONS**

Wrap-up and concrete steps for action  
Jean-Charles Sacotte, ECRI member