



“Combating racial discrimination and intolerance in Albania”

ROUND TABLE

organised by
the **European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)**
in co-operation with
the **People’s Advocate**
and
the **Commissioner for the Protection from Discrimination**

Tirana, 28 October 2020

DRAFT PROGRAMME

08:30 – 09:00 Connection test for online participants

09:00 – 09:15 Opening Statements

- Christian Ahlund - Former Chair of ECRI and rapporteur on Albania
- Erinda Ballanca - Ombudsperson
- Robert Gajda - Commissioner for the Protection from Discrimination
- Agron Tare - Deputy Minister, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs

SESSION I – ECRI’S REPORT ON ALBANIA

Chair: Stefano Valenti - Head of Unit, No Hate Speech and Co-operation, Directorate General of Democracy, Council of Europe

09:15 – 09:30 ECRI’s Report on Albania: main recommendations, Tobias Bergmann - Programme Adviser, ECRI Secretariat

09:30 – 09:45 Follow up on ECRI’s recommendations, Brunilda Minarolli - Head of Human Rights, Minority and Reporting Unit, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs

09:45 – 10:00 Discussion

10:00 – 10:15 Short break

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SESSION II – CHALLENGES IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND APPLICATION OF THE LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK FOR COMBATING RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Chair: Brunilda Minarolli - Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs

10:15 – 10:30 Developments related to the legislative process, Vasilika Hysi - MP and member of ECRI in respect of Albania

10:30 – 10:40 ECRI findings and recommendations: completion of secondary legislation to the Laws on Legal Aid and on Social Housing, Christian Ahlund - Former Chair of ECRI and rapporteur on Albania

10:40 – 11:00 Discussion

11:00 – 11:05 Short break

SESSION III – SOLUTIONS FOR THE HOUSING PROBLEMS OF ROMA AND EGYPTIAN MINORITIES (PANEL DISCUSSION)

Chair: Merita Xhafaj - Ministry of Health and Social Protection

11:05 – 11:55 Challenges faced, and lessons learned: housing crises, lack of budgetary resources, forced evictions

- ECRI findings and recommendations, Orsiola Kurti - Project Officer, ROMACTED Programme
- Moving from Policy to Implementation, Ministry of Finance and Economy, Dajna Sorensen - Deputy Minister (tbc)
- Addressing ECRI Recommendations at Local Level, Ilir Xhakolli - Mayor of the Municipality of Pogradec
- Rights and Wrongs, A Roma Minority Perspective, Bledar Taho - Executive Director of the Institute of Romani Culture in Albania (IRCA)

11:55 – 12:15 Contributions and questions from the floor

12:15 – 12:30 Conclusions: wrap-up and concrete steps for action

- Christian Ahlund - Former Chair of ECRI and rapporteur on Albania
- Bruna Minarolli - Head of Human Rights, Minority and Reporting Unit, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs
- Independent Institutions, Erinda Ballanca - Ombudsperson and Robert Gajda - Commissioner for the Protection from Discrimination

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