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**FOURTH REPORT SUBMITTED BY SAN MARINO  
PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 25, PARAGRAPH 2  
OF THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION FOR  
THE PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES**

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## **Report of the Republic of San Marino under the fourth monitoring cycle of the *Framework Convention of the Council of Europe for the Protection of National Minorities***

### **- Introduction**

While presenting this report under the fourth monitoring cycle of the *Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities*, it is worth reiterating what was already expressed in the previous reports, as well as in the 2006 written reply to the second opinion of the Advisory Committee and when the resolution CM/ResCMN(2007)3 was adopted by the Committee of Ministers at the 985th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies: the San Marino Government confirms that in San Marino there are no national minorities - ethnic, linguistic and/or religious - since the foreigners living in the country cannot be considered as such<sup>1</sup>.

Without national minorities of any kind, in San Marino there are no associations/non-governmental organisations aimed at protecting, promoting or integrating minorities; in addition, the constitutional order of San Marino does not envisage specific provisions on national minorities. The following paragraphs describe the different measures adopted to combat racism and intolerance and to encourage dialogue and integration of foreigners living in San Marino.

### **- Practical arrangements made at the national level for following up the results of the second monitoring cycle**

Through its Internet web-site, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs will give particular prominence to the information (reports, opinions, resolutions, recommendations, etc.) diffused by the monitoring bodies of the United Nations and the Council of Europe, including the situation of San Marino vis à-vis *the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities*, notwithstanding what has been pointed out in the introduction.

The necessary information to have access to the text of the Framework Convention is already available to the public on the above-mentioned web-site.

### **- Measures taken to improve the implementation of the Framework Convention**

Although San Marino has not recorded so far any case of racism or racial discrimination, the increasing complexity of social phenomena around and within society, as well as isolated cases of "latent prejudice"<sup>2</sup> towards groups of people who are not San Marino citizens, has forced to take a cultural and legal commitment to prevention and supervision in order to introduce in San Marino the necessary instruments to avoid the emergence of forms of racisms and to enhance the level of tolerance and understanding among the population.

Therefore, on 28 April 2008 the Great and General Council approved Law no. 66 *Provisions on racial, ethnic and religious discrimination*.

The aforementioned law is a fundamental measure confirming the commitment of the San Marino Government to the promotion of the principle of non-discrimination and implements the international commitment taken by the Republic of San Marino in joining the major international legal instruments in the field, such as Protocol no. 12 of the ECHR and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD).

This Law, implementing in practice the fundamental principle of equality enshrined in article 4 of the Declaration of the Citizens' Rights, introduces in the San Marino Criminal Code the crime of racial discrimination and punishes, in particular, the dissemination, by any means, of ideas based upon racial or ethnic superiority or hatred as well as the instigation to discrimination and discrimination itself on racial, ethnic or religious basis.

In San Marino, many initiatives have been carried out both by institutions and associations in order to raise the awareness of people on some important issues, such as discrimination and intolerance, and to enhance social cohesion.

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<sup>1</sup> The composition of the population living in the Republic of San Marino, according to citizenship, personal status and sex, updated as of 31 December 2014, is outlined in the table attached to the report. Please note that the term "residents" refers to persons, either San Marino citizens or foreigners, who have their registered residence in the Republic, whereas "staying persons" are foreigners bearing a permit to stay in San Marino.

<sup>2</sup> Resolution CM/ResCMN(2007) 3 of the Committee of Ministers.

From June 2006 to September 2007 San Marino joined, at the initiative of the Council of Europe, the "*All Different, All Equal*" campaign, aimed at supporting the fight against racism by promoting plurality, equality and the value of diversity.

It also noted that immigrants can be involved in cultural associations, which are, by law, part of the Council of Cultural Associations and Cooperatives. The Council is a local social and cultural agency coordinated by the Ministry for Education and Culture, University and Youth Policies, which is the central governmental body responsible for the enhancement and promotion of cultural policies. The Council offers its support through financial contributions annually granted upon request and through free use of public structures and services with a view to promoting cultural activities (for example, free post, free billposting, printing and binding of informative material).

An information service to assist both workers and employers in carrying out bureaucratic procedures has already been activated at the Trade Unions. This service particularly deals with home assistance, mainly to elderly and ill people.

Moreover, a group of volunteer women has founded an association called "Le amiche di Ruth" (Ruth's girlfriends) and targeted to the so-called "badanti", that is to say women employed to assist elderly or non self-sufficient people or as cleaners, mainly foreigners. This association organises various courses (language, computer, cooking, etc.) for foreign women living in San Marino. Its objective is not only to facilitate their integration into local society and culture, but also to establish a closer relationship with people of different cultures and to encourage cultural exchanges for a mutual enrichment.

With regard to the importance attached to "social cohesion", San Marino promoted the organisation of a conference entitled "Migrations and Development" on the eve of taking up the Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. The objective of this initiative, organized by the Museum of the Emigrant – Permanent Study Centre on Emigration – and sponsored by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, in the light of the evident connection between migration flows and plural societies, was to contribute to the analysis of this theme, within the wider framework of intercultural dialogue, while trying to propose specific solutions.

Furthermore, it shall be pointed out that San Marino six-month Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers, characterised by the promotion of intercultural and interreligious dialogue - one of the priorities of its agenda - served to constantly raise the awareness of general public on the importance of tolerance and intercultural dialogue.