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CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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Република Србија
ВЛАДА



COMMISSIONER
FOR PROTECTION
OF EQUALITY

CONFERENCE

COMBATING INTOLERANCE AND PROMOTING EQUALITY

17 SEPTEMBER 2019

BELGRADE, SERBIA

VENUE: PALACE OF SERBIA, ROOM SERBIA

PROGRAMME



PRÉSIDENTIE FRANÇAISE
FRENCH PRESIDENCY

2019 MAI - NOVEMBRE
Conseil de l'Europe
Council of Europe



European Commission
against Racism and Intolerance

ECRI
Commission européenne
contre le racisme et l'intolérance



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09:00 – 09:30 REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS

09:30 – 10:30 OPENING

MODERATOR: **Angela Longo**, Programme Manager, Council of Europe

OPENING REMARKS:

- **Zorana Mihajlovic**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure, Republic of Serbia
- **Suzana Paunovic**, Director of the Government Office for Human and Minority Rights, Republic of Serbia
- **Tobias Flessenkemper**, Head of the Council of Europe Office in Belgrade
- **Ambassador Sem Fabrizi**, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia
- **Ambassador Jean-Louis Falconi**, Ambassador of France in Serbia

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

- **Maria Daniella Marouda**, Vice-Chair of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) & Member in respect of Greece

* CONFERENCE PHOTO *

10:30 – 11:15 PRESS STATEMENTS AND COFFEE BREAK

11:15 – 12:45 THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF POLITICAL LEADERS IN COMBATING HATE SPEECH: STANDARDS AND BEST PRACTICES

MODERATOR: **Adelina Marini**, Journalist at the EUINSIDE

- **Elvira Kovacs**, Member of Parliament of the Republic of Serbia & Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)
- **Damir Arnaut**, Member of the House of Representatives, Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Barbara John**, Member of ECRI in respect of Germany
- **Amarildo Fecanji**, Executive Co-Director, ERA – LGBTI Equal Rights Association for the Western Balkans and Turkey

DISCUSSION

12:45 – 14:00 THE ROLE OF EQUALITY BODIES IN COMBATING HATE SPEECH: STANDARDS AND BEST PRACTICES

MODERATOR: **Stefano Valenti**, Head of No Hate Speech and Co-operation Unit, Anti- discrimination Department, Directorate General of Democracy, Council of Europe

- **Brankica Jankovic**, Commissioner for the Protection of Equality, Republic of Serbia
- **Laetitia Avia**, Member of the French National Assembly
- **Neza Kogovsek Salamon**, Office of the Advocate of the Principle of Equality of Slovenia & Member of ECRI in respect of Slovenia
- **Tamas Kadar**, Deputy Director, European Network of Equality Bodies - EQUINET

DISCUSSION

14:00 – 15:15 LUNCH BREAK

15:15 – 16:30 PROMOTION OF DIVERSITY AND EQUALITY IN SERBIA

MODERATOR: **Sasa Gajin**, Member of ECRI in respect of Serbia

- **Suzana Paunovic**, Director of the Government Office for Human and Minority Rights, Republic of Serbia
- **Anamarija Vitek**, State Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, Republic of Serbia
- **Milan Markovic**, Head of Human Rights Team, United Nations in Serbia

DISCUSSION

16:30 – 17:00 THE WAY FORWARD THROUGH EUROPEAN COOPERATION

- **Brankica Jankovic**, Commissioner for the Protection of Equality, Republic of Serbia
- **Ambassador Andrea Orizio**, Head of the OSCE Mission to Serbia
- **Tobias Flessenkemper**, Head of the Council of Europe Office in Belgrade

17:15 TRANSFER TO THE EMBASSY OF FRANCE

- **Bus departing from the Palace of Serbia**

18:00 CONFERENCE RECEPTION HOSTED BY THE AMBASSADOR OF FRANCE

- **Residence of the Embassy of France**

Gračanička 2, Belgrade

WORKING LANGUAGES: ENGLISH & SERBIAN

SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION PROVIDED

BACKGROUND

The European Union and Council of Europe signed Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey (hereafter referred to as “Horizontal Facility”) on 23 May 2016. The Horizontal Facility builds on the Council of Europe and EU Policy priorities in the context of the Western Balkans and Turkey and on the Council of Europe expertise in standard-setting, monitoring and cooperation methodologies. It aims to improve implementation of key recommendations of relevant Council of Europe monitoring and advisory bodies in the areas indicated in the Statement of Intent signed on 1 April 2014 by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and the European Union Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy. Phase I of the Horizontal Facility begun on 24 May 2016 and lasted until 24 May 2019. It is succeeded by Phase II of the Horizontal facility which is planned to last until 24 May 2022.

The project “**Promotion of diversity and equality in Serbia**” aims to strengthen the capacity of stakeholders to address national minority protection and promotion, protection of LGBTI rights and combating hate speech. The project on promotion of diversity and equality in Serbia builds upon the work of one project implemented in the first phase of the Horizontal Facility (hereafter HF), namely HF 33 project on “Strengthening protection of national minorities in Serbia”, while introducing two additional components: on protecting of LGBTI rights and on combating hate speech. More specifically, each of these components (national minorities, LGBTI rights and combating hate speech) are interlinked and will be addressed through the following three-fold approach:

At the policy and legislative level, the project will aim to support the authorities to enhance the alignment of legislation relating to anti-discrimination in the above-mentioned areas of intervention, where appropriate with the Council of Europe standards and with its monitoring bodies’ recommendations (European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM) and European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML)).

At the capacity building level, the project will aim to enhance the implementation of the relevant policies and laws; support the authorities to identify and address gaps in existing practices through the harmonisation of provisions, policies and practices relating to the implementation of policies and legislation. Moreover, the capacity of the central authorities and other relevant bodies, local governments, Councils for inter-ethnic relations and equality bodies will be supported in implementing policies and strengthened in order to be able to collect and analyse data on discrimination towards national minorities, along with data on the use of hate speech: this will allow the authorities to better tailor their interventions to address discrimination.

At awareness raising level, the project in close cooperation with CSOs, the Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination and the Ombudsman will aim to raise awareness of the dangers posed by hate speech, demonstrating both the falsity of the foundations on which it is based and its unacceptability, so as to discourage and prevent the use of such speech.

The project partners are the Office for Human and Minority Rights, Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government, Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs, Protector of Citizens and Commissioner for the Protection of Equality.

25 YEARS OF ECRI

The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) is a unique human rights monitoring body which specialises in questions relating to the fight against racism, discrimination (on grounds of “race”, ethnic/national origin, colour, citizenship, religion, language, sexual orientation and gender identity), xenophobia, antisemitism and intolerance in Europe.

ECRI was set up by the first Summit of Heads of State and Government of the member states of the Council of Europe in 1993 and became operational in 1994. As ECRI marks 25 years of combating racism and intolerance, current trends show that these are still persistent problems in European societies that require renewed efforts to be overcome. Each Council of Europe member state appoints one person to serve as a member of ECRI.

Twenty-five years ago, the Council of Europe member states decided to join forces to counter the threat from racism and intolerance and established the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI). ECRI deals with all forms of racism and intolerance, whether based on skin colour, language, religion, nationality, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation or gender identity. ECRI’s 25th anniversary, which coincides with the Council of Europe’s 70th anniversary, provides the opportunity to take stock of the progress achieved, tackle the present and emerging challenges and explore how to increase the impact of the actions of the member states and ECRI.

In 2019 ECRI started work on the 6th cycle of its country monitoring focusing on three main themes: effective equality and access to rights, hate speech and hate-motivated violence, and integration and inclusion.

The publication of ECRI’s country reports is an important stage in the development of an ongoing dialogue between ECRI and the authorities in the member states with a view to identifying solutions to the problems of racism and intolerance which they face. The input of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other bodies or individuals active in this field is welcomed as a part of this process, to ensure that ECRI’s contribution is as constructive and useful as possible.

To be effective in the fight against racism and intolerance, ECRI reaches out to society at large, including through the activities of its working group on relations with civil society and equality bodies. NGOs are key partners for ECRI in the fight against racism and intolerance. They are vital sources of information on the situation of the groups covered by ECRI’s mandate and on racist and homo/transphobic incidents. They are also major players in bringing about real change at national level.