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**ECRI CONCLUSIONS
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS
IN RESPECT OF
SUBJECT TO INTERIM FOLLOW-UP**

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¹ Unless otherwise indicated, this analysis does not take into account any developments that occurred after , the date on which the response of the authorities of to ECRI's request for information on measures taken to implement the recommendations chosen for interim follow-up was received.

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FOREWORD

As part of its sixth round of monitoring work, ECRI has renewed its process of interim follow-up with respect to two specific recommendations made in each of its country reports.

In line with the Information Document on ECRI's sixth monitoring cycle brought to the attention of the Ministers' Deputies on 9 May 2018¹, not later than two years following the publication of each report, ECRI addresses a communication to the Government concerned asking what has been done in respect of the specific recommendations for which priority follow-up was requested.

At the same time, ECRI gathers relevant information itself. On the basis of this information and the response from the Government, ECRI draws up its conclusions on the way in which its recommendations have been followed up.

It should be noted that these conclusions concern only the specific interim follow-up recommendations and do not aim at providing a comprehensive analysis of all developments in the fight against racism and intolerance in the State concerned.

¹ [CM/Del/Dec\(2018\)1316/4.1](#); [CM\(2018\)62-add10](#).

1) *In its report on North Macedonia (sixth monitoring cycle) published on 20 September 2023, ECRI recommended that the authorities grant the Commission on Prevention and Protection against Discrimination and the Ombudsman's Office financial autonomy to utilise their budgets without having to seek approval from the Ministry of Finance.*

ECRI has not received any information from the authorities or other sources that indicate changes regarding the requirement for the Commission on Prevention and Protection against Discrimination and the Ombudsman's Office to seek and receive approval from the Ministry of Finance before being able to utilise their budgets.

ECRI has been informed that amendments to the Law on the Ombudsman were planned, which, inter alia, were also intended to address this issue with respect to the Ombudsman institution, but these amendments have not yet been adopted by Parliament. Thus, the absence of financial autonomy persists. This is also of particular concern given the general situation of the institution, which is currently characterised by an insufficient budget and the fact that only 85 out of 183 staff positions are filled.²

ECRI concludes that the recommendation has not been implemented.

2) *In its report on North Macedonia (sixth monitoring cycle), ECRI recommended that the authorities resolve the long-standing problems concerning identity documents and personal identification numbers for the previously identified Roma, who did not have sufficient proof of identity following the independence of North Macedonia.*

ECRI received information from the authorities that the *Law on Persons That Are Not Registered in the Register of Births* and amendments to the *Law on the Civil Registry*, have been significant steps taken toward tackling the issues relating to the group of Roma persons referred to in ECRI's recommendation. In addition, Parliament adopted amendments to the *Law on ID Cards* and the *Law on Registration of Residence* that can also facilitate this process. Furthermore, at the beginning of 2025, the Inter-Party Parliamentary Group on Roma Rights was re-established in the country's Parliament, the aim of which is to address issues related to statelessness and to persons without personal identification documents.

As a result, according to the information received by ECRI, out of the approximately 700 previously identified Roma who did not have sufficient proof of identity following the independence of North Macedonia, a large majority have had their status regularised – principally by having been granted citizenship of North Macedonia – and are thus no longer excluded from accessing education, employment, public health insurance and social welfare payments. However, according to the authorities as well as other sources, some 160 persons remain who have not yet had their status regularised and for whom the procedure is currently still ongoing. The authorities indicated to ECRI that they envisage these cases to be resolved as well. In the light of the authorities' recent overall successes in combating statelessness, ECRI trusts that this will be done without further delay.

ECRI considers therefore that the recommendation has been partially implemented.

² Ombudsman of the Republic of North Macedonia, Annual report on the level of ensuring respect, promotion, improvement and protection of human rights and freedoms 2024 (2025): 209-211. – See also ECRI's fifth monitoring cycle country report (2016): § 87.