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**ECRI CONCLUSIONS
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS
IN RESPECT OF MALTA
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 11 March 2026, the date on which the response of the authorities of Malta 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 Malta (sixth monitoring cycle) published on 26 June 2024, ECRI recommended that the authorities bring forward legislation establishing a fully independent and effective equality body in line with ECRI's General Policy Recommendation No. 2 on equality bodies to combat racism and intolerance at national level. Development of such legislation should build upon work done so far and include consultations with civil society.*

The authorities informed ECRI of the action taken towards the establishment of a fully independent and effective equality body, which is to take a form of the Human Rights and Equality Commission. According to the information provided, the authorities have drafted a bill establishing such a commission, taking into account ECRI's General Policy Recommendation No. 2 on equality bodies to combat racism and intolerance at national level, as well as European Union Directive 2024/1499.¹ As a consequence, the new equality body, which is to replace the National Commission for the Protection of Equality (NCPE), is meant to enjoy legal, operational and financial independence and to have a broad range of powers including – among others – conducting investigations, issuing opinions and recommendations, facilitating mediation and providing assistance to victims of discrimination. The authorities indicated that the draft of the bill had undergone detailed discussions with the NCPE and other stakeholders and that consultations with civil society were planned to take place soon.

Civil society organisations indicated to ECRI that the draft bill had not been made available and that they had not yet been consulted on the contents of the bill.

ECRI welcomes the work done by the Maltese authorities on the development of the new legislation establishing the Human Rights and Equality Commission and the information according to which the drawing-up of a draft legislation by the government is advanced. However, it notes that, despite the fact that the work on the establishment of a fully independent and effective equality body in Malta had started before ECRI's monitoring visit to Malta in May 2023 and has ever since continued, the draft legislation has still not been subject to consultations with the civil society and has not yet been submitted to the Parliament.

Consequently, in the present state of affairs, ECRI considers that its recommendation has only been partially implemented and takes note of the initial steps taken.

2. *In its report on Malta (sixth monitoring cycle) published on 26 June 2024, ECRI recommended that the authorities develop and adopt a comprehensive strategy for integration and inclusion of migrants. The strategy should in particular: i) contain clear and measurable indicators by which the impact of the strategy may be assessed; ii) require regular evaluation of its implementation; iii) provide for the allocation of sufficient resources for its implementation; iv) provide for the inclusion of civil society organisations working with migrants in the implementation and evaluation of the strategy.*

On 29 January 2025, the Maltese authorities launched its second Integration Strategy and Action Plan 2025-2030 (hereinafter "the Strategy").² The policy document contains six main policy goals broken down into 41 more concrete measures to be implemented by the end of 2030. It targets the integration of all migrants in Malta, takes into account the situation of people with migration background and addresses issues related to integration in many areas of social life, such as education, employment, housing and healthcare. It stresses the importance of social cohesion and provides for a number of actions addressed to local communities and the majority population, including ones aimed at awareness-raising and promoting the concept that integration is a two-way process.

The Strategy refers to the need for improvements in data collection on integration of migrants and provides for an annual review and reporting on the implementation of the measures it contains. The central role in the coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the

¹ European Union, [Council Directive \(EU\) 2024/1499 of 7 May 2024](#).

² Government of Malta (2025), [Integration Strategy and Action Plan 2025-2030](#).

Strategy is assigned to the newly established Inter-Ministerial Committee for Mainstreaming of Human Rights. While the document does not explicitly name indicators and benchmarks for the achievement of each of its goals, it provides for the development of a monitoring and evaluation plan for the implementation of the Strategy and clarifies that this process will incorporate internationally recognised indicators, such as those used by Eurostat and Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEX). With reference to budgetary allocations for the implementation of the Strategy, the document refers to both national and European Union funds and obliges the Ministry responsible for Finance in coordination with other bodies, to ensure sustainable financial support for integration initiatives. The Strategy also contains a number of provisions for the inclusion of civil society organisations into the implementation of the measures it contains and for an assessment of its impact, including through providing support and conducting capacity-building initiatives addressed to migrant-led initiatives and organisations. The close cooperation between the government and the civil society is also to be achieved through regular thematic meetings of the Integration and Anti-Racism Consultative Council (IARCC) bringing together representatives of civil society organisations active in the field of migration and the relevant authorities.

ECRI positively notes that the development of the Strategy included consultations with civil society organisations and other stakeholders³ and resulted in a comprehensive document establishing policy framework for the integration and inclusion of migrants. It takes note of the concerns of some of its interlocutors that there is still a need for further clarification of indicators and benchmarks by which the success of each of the actions enumerated in the Strategy will be measured and to guarantee that the resources for the implementation of the goals of the Strategy are secured in a sustainable way and not fully dependent on project funds. However, having in mind that the Strategy allocates responsibility for addressing those issues, ECRI trusts that they can be effectively tackled in the process of its implementation.

In light of the above, ECRI concludes that, overall, its recommendation has been implemented.

³ ECRI was informed that total of 47 submissions from civil society actors and other stakeholders had been received in public consultations on the Strategy.