



“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 (*tbc*)

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, Thobias 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 of 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 of 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 – 10:50 Challenges in the development and application of secondary legislation to the Law on the Protection of National Minorities, *(tbc)*

10:50 – 11:10 Discussion

11:10 – 11:15 Short break

SESSION III – SOLUTIONS FOR THE HOUSING PROBLEMS OF ROMA AND EGYPTIANS COMMUNITIES (PANEL DISCUSSION)

Chair: Merita Xhafaj, Ministry of Health and Social Protection

11:15 – 12:00 Challenges faced, and lessons learned: housing crises, lack of budgetary resources, forced evictions

- ECRI findings and recommendations: Sara Gimenez, ECRI Member
- 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 *(tbc)*
- Rights & Wrongs, A Roma Minority Perspective, Bledar Taho - Institute of Romani Culture in Albania

12:00 – 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
- Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs *(tbc)*
- Independent Institutions: Erinda Ballanca - Ombudsperson and Robert Gajda - Commissioner for the Protection from Discrimination
- EU Delegation in Albania representative *(tbc)*