

Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

# FCNM HUDOC USER GUIDE

Prepared August 2019

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# 1. Navigating the home page

The screenshot shows the FCNM HUDOC search page. On the left, there are filter sections for 'DOCUMENT COLLECTIONS', 'STATE/REGION', 'LANGUAGE', 'ARTICLE', and 'CYCLE'. The main area displays search results for 'Fourth Opinion on Albania'. Callouts provide instructions on how to use these filters and the search bar.

**Callout 1 (Top Left):** Use this section to select, by checking or unchecking the boxes, which documents you wish to search – Opinions, comments or resolutions

**Callout 2 (Top Right):** Use this to search for terms used in opinions (see sections 3 and 4 below)

**Callout 3 (Middle Left):** Use this section to select which COUNTRY/IES you wish to search. Select 'more' to see the full list. See section 2a below.

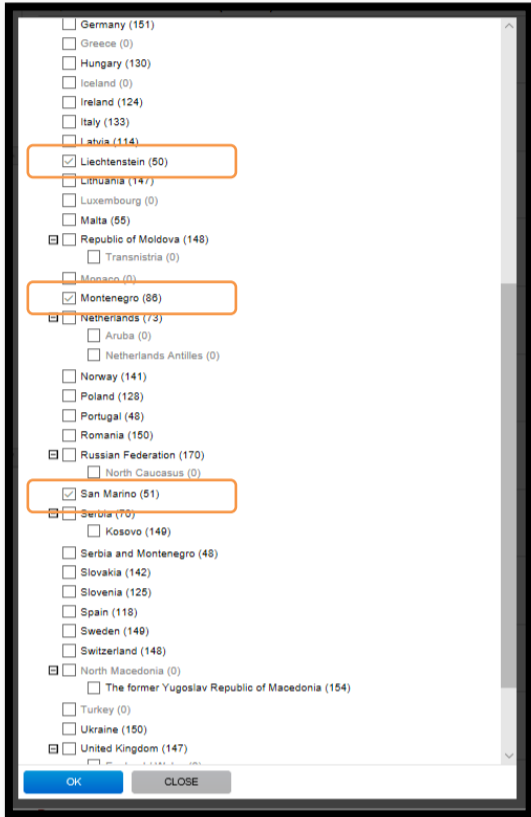
**Callout 4 (Bottom Left):** Use this section to select which ARTICLE/S you wish to search. Select 'more' to see the full list. See 2.b below.

**Callout 5 (Bottom Left):** Use this section to select which CYCLE/S you wish to search. See 2.c below

**Callout 6 (Middle Right):** By default, all opinions appear here by order of 'most recently adopted'; Albania is the most recently adopted Opinion currently available on the Hudoc. You can change this using the 'sort by' box in the top right corner

## 2. Filters

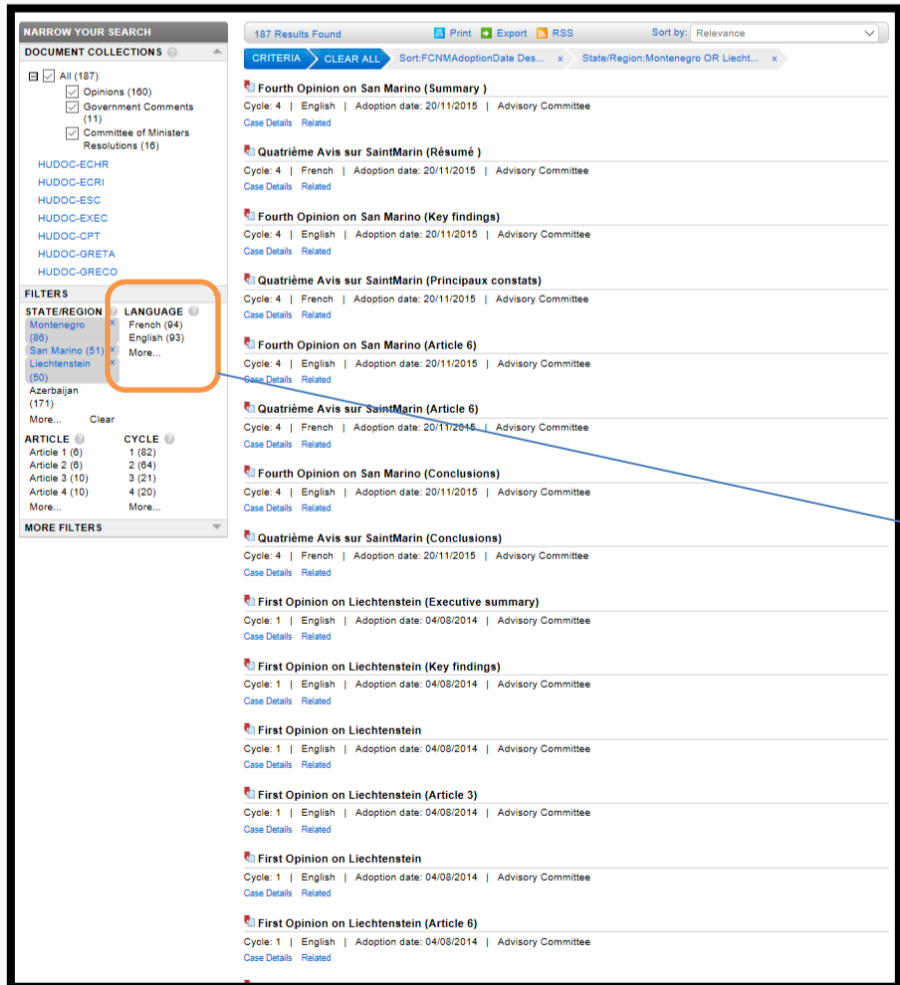
### a. Countries



Having selected 'more' on the State/Region filter section, you then use the check boxes to select which states you wish to see documents on. The number in brackets indicates the number of 'sections' – i.e. articles, key findings, executive summary – for a given country, not the number of documents.

Here, Montenegro, San Marino and Liechtenstein have been selected.

Click 'ok' and the filtering will be automatic



We now see results in English and French (the two official languages of the Council of Europe), but we will most likely only want results in one language.

To change this, click either 'English' or 'French' here.

**NARROW YOUR SEARCH**

93 Results Found | Print | Export | RSS | Sort by: Relevance

CRITERIA CLEAR ALL | Sort: FCNMAAdoptionDate Des... | State/Region: Montenegro OR Liecht... | Language: English

**DOCUMENT COLLECTIONS**

- All (93)
- Opinions (80)
- Government Comments (5)
- Committee of Ministers Resolutions (8)
- HUDOC-ECHR
- HUDOC-ECRI
- HUDOC-ESC
- HUDOC-EXEC
- HUDOC-CPT
- HUDOC-GRETA
- HUDOC-GRECO

**FILTERS**

**STATE/REGION**

- Montenegro (43)
- Liechtenstein (25)
- San Marino (25)

**LANGUAGE**

- English (93)
- French (94)

**ARTICLE**

- Article 1 (3)
- Article 2 (3)
- Article 3 (5)
- Article 4 (5)

**CYCLE**

- 1 (41)
- 2 (32)
- 3 (10)
- 4 (10)

**RESULTS**

- Fourth Opinion on San Marino (Summary)**  
Cycle: 4 | English | Adoption date: 20/11/2015 | Advisory Committee
- Fourth Opinion on San Marino (Key findings)**  
Cycle: 4 | English | Adoption date: 20/11/2015 | Advisory Committee
- Fourth Opinion on San Marino (Article 6)**  
Cycle: 4 | English | Adoption date: 20/11/2015 | Advisory Committee
- Fourth Opinion on San Marino (Conclusions)**  
Cycle: 4 | English | Adoption date: 20/11/2015 | Advisory Committee
- First Opinion on Liechtenstein (Executive summary)**  
Cycle: 1 | English | Adoption date: 04/08/2014 | Advisory Committee
- First Opinion on Liechtenstein (Key findings)**  
Cycle: 1 | English | Adoption date: 04/08/2014 | Advisory Committee
- First Opinion on Liechtenstein**  
Cycle: 1 | English | Adoption date: 04/08/2014 | Advisory Committee
- First Opinion on Liechtenstein (Article 3)**  
Cycle: 1 | English | Adoption date: 04/08/2014 | Advisory Committee
- First Opinion on Liechtenstein**  
Cycle: 1 | English | Adoption date: 04/08/2014 | Advisory Committee
- First Opinion on Liechtenstein (Article 6)**  
Cycle: 1 | English | Adoption date: 04/08/2014 | Advisory Committee
- First Opinion on Liechtenstein**  
Cycle: 1 | English | Adoption date: 04/08/2014 | Advisory Committee
- First Opinion on Liechtenstein (Conclusions)**  
Cycle: 1 | English | Adoption date: 04/08/2014 | Advisory Committee
- Fourth Opinion on Liechtenstein (Summary)**  
Cycle: 4 | English | Adoption date: 21/05/2014 | Advisory Committee

Once clicked, you will then only see results in English or French.

For any filter, clicking the small blue x will remove the selection you made. Clicking 'CLEAR ALL' will take you back to the home page (section 1 above).

You can see here which has been selected (for country and language). Clicking the small blue x on the right will remove the selection you have made.

b. Articles

Sort by: Order (Article-Protocol) | AND | OR | NOT

- Article 1 (3)
- Article 2 (3)
- Article 3 (5)
- Article 4 (5)
- Article 5 (4)
- Article 6 (9)
- Article 7 (3)
- Article 8 (4)
- Article 9 (4)
- Article 10 (4)
- Article 11 (4)
- Article 12 (4)
- Article 13 (4)
- Article 14 (4)
- Article 15 (4)
- Article 16 (4)
- Article 17 (4)
- Article 18 (4)
- Article 19 (3)
- Conclusions (10)
- Executive summary (10)
- Key findings (10)

OK | CLOSE

click 'more' and this menu appears.

Check the boxes of the Articles you wish to see.

Here, Article 6 and 12 are selected.

Click ok, and the filtering is automatic.

**The same process applies for cycles.**

### 3. Text Search

#### a. Basic text search of filtered results

The basic key word search can be done from the first page (see section 1 above), or once filters have been applied (see section 2).

Following from section 2, having used filters you can then search the text of the opinions you have left.

The screenshot shows the FCNM HUDOC search results page. The search bar at the top contains the term 'tolerance'. The left sidebar shows filters for STATE/REGION (Liechtenstein, Montenegro, San Marino), LANGUAGE (English), ARTICLE (Article 6), and CYCLE (1). The main content area displays three search results, each for a 'First Opinion on [Country] (Article 6)'. A green circle highlights the filter section, and an orange box highlights the search bar. A green arrow points from the search bar to the filter section.

We want to find the term 'tolerance' in the Opinions on Montenegro, Liechtenstein and San Marino, in English, in the 1st cycle.

Type the word 'tolerance' in the search bar and it will further narrow the results.

Note that this will only produce results from the filtered results. To search all opinions, search from the home page (see below).

Clicking on the result will open the document, and the key word which was searched, i.e. tolerance, will be highlighted:

The screenshot shows a document page for 'Cycle: 1 | English | Adoption date: 04/08/2014 | Advisory Committee Article 6'. The text of the document is displayed, with the word 'tolerance' highlighted in yellow. A table of contents on the right side of the page lists sections: Executive summary, Key findings, Article 3, Article 6 (highlighted), and Conclusions.

#### b. Text search from home page

The screenshot shows the FCNM HUDOC search results page with the same filters as in the previous screenshot. The 'CLEAR ALL' button is highlighted with an orange box. An orange arrow points from the 'CLEAR ALL' button to a text box on the right.

To return to the home page, select 'CLEAR ALL', to remove all filters we have set.

The screenshot shows the FCNM HUDOC search interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the term 'tolerance' entered and a 'SEARCH' button. Below the search bar, there are links for 'Useful Links', 'Advanced Search', and 'Français'. The main content area displays 897 results found, sorted by relevance. A list of document titles is shown, including 'Fourth Opinion on Albania (Article 6)', 'Quatrième Avis sur l'Albanie (Article 6)', 'Fourth Opinion on Albania (Article 12)', 'Quatrième Avis sur l'Albanie (Article 12)', 'Fourth Opinion on Ireland (Executive summary)', 'Quatrième Avis sur l'Irlande (Résumé)', 'Fourth Opinion on Ireland (Article 6)', 'Quatrième Avis sur l'Irlande (Article 6)', 'Fourth Opinion on Switzerland (Key findings)', and 'Quatrième Avis sur la Suisse (Principaux constats)'. On the left side, there are filters for 'DOCUMENT COLLECTIONS' and 'FILTERS', including options for 'STATE/REGION', 'LANGUAGE', 'ARTICLE', and 'CYCLE'. A blue arrow points from the search bar to a text box on the right, and another blue arrow points from the filters section to the same text box.

Then, as before, type the word you want to find, here 'tolerance' and press search.

Results will automatically show in order of most recently adopted.

Use the filters, as in Section 2 above, to further narrow the results (the word you searched for will remain)

The screenshot shows a document page from the FCNM HUDOC database. The document title is '(3 of 4) Third Opinion on Italy (Articles 4 and 6)'. The document URL is 'http://hudoc.fcnm.coe.int/eng/?i=3rd\_OP\_Italy\_en-4'. The document text is displayed in a table-like format with columns for 'View', 'Case Details', and 'Related'. The text includes paragraphs 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, and 78. The word 'tolerance' is highlighted in yellow in the text. A red box highlights the 'X' button in the top right corner of the document viewer. A red arrow points from the text box on the right to the 'X' button.

Clicking on a document will then open it, and you will see the original term searched for, i.e. tolerance, highlighted in yellow in the text.

IMPORTANT: To exit a document, you must click the X in the top right corner. The 'back' navigation button on your browser (Firefox,

## 4. Advanced Search

To do an advanced search, CLEAR ALL filters, or reload the page [www.hudoc.fcnm.coe.int](http://www.hudoc.fcnm.coe.int)

There are 2 ways to do this, using the 'advanced search' tool from the home page, or using the search bar.

**For the other functions here, Near and Boolean, do not use the Advanced Search box, but see below for using the simple search box.**

### a. Advanced Search tool

The image shows two screenshots of the FCNM HUDOC website's advanced search interface. The top screenshot shows the search form with fields for Text, Article, Publication Date, Adoption Date, and Reference. A blue downward-pointing arrow is positioned above the Text field. The bottom screenshot shows the same interface with a dropdown menu open, displaying search criteria options: 'This exact word or phrase', 'All of these words', 'Any of these words', 'None of these words', 'Near these words', and 'Boolean search'. A blue arrow points from the dropdown menu to a text box on the right.

Select 'Advanced Search' and this section will appear on the home page.

Click on the blue downward pointing arrow

This box will then appear, which gives you different search options.



i. Exact word or phrase

**Text**

This exact word or phrase

All of these words

Any of these words

None of these words

Near these words

Boolean search

(1 of 39) Fourth Opinion on Lithuania (Executive summary)  
Cycle: 4 | English | Adoption date: 30/05/2018 | Advisory Committee  
Document URL: [http://hudoc.fcnm.coe.int/eng/?i=4th\\_OP\\_Lithuania\\_en-1](http://hudoc.fcnm.coe.int/eng/?i=4th_OP_Lithuania_en-1)

View Case Details Related

**Cycle: 4 | English | Adoption date: 30/05/2018 | Advisory Committee**  
**Summary**

Lithuanian society is largely characterised by tolerance and respect with regard to persons belonging to national minorities. The authorities continue to maintain an inclusive approach towards the scope of application of the Framework Convention. A Department for National Minorities has been re-established, which has rendered national minority issues more visible in national politics and improved co-ordination of various policy areas affecting national minorities. The absence of a comprehensive legislative framework, however, continues to impede the implementation of a number of important language rights contained within the Framework Convention. These concern in particular the spelling of names in official documents and the use of minority languages on topographic indications. Public debates on these issues continue to be highly politicised, which appears disproportionate and not conducive to finding pragmatic solutions.

Some progress has been made in the socio-economic inclusion of Roma. The government's "Action plan for Roma integration into Lithuanian society 2015-2020" and Vilnius municipality's "Programme for Social Integration of the Community of the Vilnius (Kirtimai) Roma Settlement" have started to yield results. The implementation of these plans will require careful monitoring, effective participation, the inclusion of Roma women and further investment in order to be sustainable. Societal attitudes against Roma are very negative and are at the root of **discrimination against Roma** in the labour and housing markets, as well as in the education system.

The introduction of a unified Lithuanian language curriculum and state exam in 2012 caused significant problems for students from minority language schools, despite the measures taken during the eight-year transition period. In particular, students from Polish minority language schools with little exposure to Lithuanian in their family environment and extra-curricular activities have difficulties with the Lithuanian language exam. A careful monitoring of the situation, effective participation of minority language teachers, and an evidence-based rather than deadline-driven approach in the further roll-out of the education reform are crucial to avoid the risk of excluding some parts of the country's youth.

'This exact word or phrase' allows you to search for a specific phrase with exact wording.

Click Ok, and then click search, and you will see all instances where this precise wording has been used.

Then select the document which you want, and you will see the exact phrase highlighted.

ii. All of these words

**Text**

This exact word or phrase

All of these words

Any of these words

None of these words

Near these words

Boolean search

'All of these words' search will give results in which all of these words appear, not as an exact phrase and not necessarily near one another.

Click Ok, and then click search, and you will see all instances where these words appear in a section together.

Select the document you wish to see, and the words will be highlighted.

(1 of 504) Fourth Opinion on Albania (Executive summary)  
Cycle: 4 | English | Adoption date: 11/10/2018 | Advisory Committee  
Document URL: [http://hudoc.fcnm.coe.int/eng?i=4th\\_OP\\_Albania\\_en-1](http://hudoc.fcnm.coe.int/eng?i=4th_OP_Albania_en-1)

View Case Details Related

Albania is pursuing institutional reforms, driven by the wish to modernise the country and to obtain membership of the European Union. In 2014, an administrative and territorial reform was implemented in Albania, with the aim of increasing the efficiency of local administrative-territorial units so as to enable them to provide better services to its citizens. The number of municipal local government units (LGUs) was reduced from 373 to 61. The authorities have taken care at the planning stage to maintain the demographic structure in the three newly created LGUs where persons belonging to national minorities constitute majorities of local populations. Regrettably, no consideration was given to the impact on the proportions of the population in areas where persons belonging to national minorities constitute a substantial, albeit a minority part.

The adoption, in October 2017, of the Law on the Protection of National Minorities was a step along the way to improving the legal framework on respect for and protection of national minorities. The new law determines the personal scope of application and the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. It has to be noted, however, that the law is very general and programmatic in nature. In many important areas it delegates specific matters to Council of Ministers' decisions, which were to be adopted within six months of the entry into force of the law. Regrettably that has not happened and the implementation of the law in many areas cannot begin. Moreover, the Council of Ministers' decisions, being of subordinate legal status, will provide a lesser degree of protection of rights.

The new Law on the Protection of National Minorities perpetuates the authorities' reliance on the documentation contained in the civil registry with regard to ethnic affiliation. The effect is that citizens of Albania are deprived of the right to free self-identification and cannot **access** specific rights. In particular, the civil registry data contained in the archives is incomplete, as regards records on national minorities it covered and areas of the country where such records were kept. For some national minorities, in particular the former "ethno-linguistic" minorities, and for newly recognised national minorities, no records were kept. Moreover, the provision in the law on fines for "incorrect" answers to the question on ethnic affiliation (nationality) introduced in advance of the 2011 population census has not been repealed and remains in force until this day.

Schools teaching in the Greek language continue to function in Gjirokastrë, Sarandë, Delvina and Korçë counties, and teaching in the Macedonian language is carried out in schools in the Korçë county. Apart from limited teaching of the **Romani** language, no teaching of other national minority languages has been introduced. The new law on national minorities opens up the possibility of opening classes teaching languages of all national minorities in Albanian schools. However, restrictive criteria for setting up classes teaching national minority languages have been formulated in the draft Council of Ministers' decisions.

The situation of the **Roma** and Egyptians remains an unresolved and urgent problem in Albania. **Roma** continue to be excluded from effective participation in social and economic life, as both groups continue to suffer from high unemployment. Factors contributing to this state of affairs include **discrimination**, lack of education and qualifications, as well as general impoverishment and underdevelopment of regions inhabited by the **Roma**. The authorities have continued to implement policies for **Roma** inclusion. The National Action Plan for the Integration of the **Roma** and Egyptians 2016-2020 strives to address issues related to **Roma** and Egyptians in the field of education, housing and urban integration, **access** to healthcare and social protection. The most significant allocations from the State budget have been earmarked to fund projects in the field of education and the promotion of intercultural dialogue as well as housing and urban integration. It has to be noted nonetheless that a significant part of the funding is provided by foreign donors, which can undermine the authorities' ownership of the implementation process.

iii. Any of these words

**Text**

This exact word or phrase

All of these words

Any of these words

None of these words

Near these words

Boolean search

**OK** **CANCEL** **CLEAR**

**'Any of these words'** is equivalent to searching for one word OR another – here halal OR kosher

Click Ok, and then click search, and you will see all instances where one of these words appears. (In the results here, for example, the word 'halal' does not appear in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Opinion on Norway

Select the document you wish to see, and the words will be highlighted.

66. The Advisory Committee would also like to stress the importance of preserving and protecting the languages of the Roma and the Romani/Tatars. It notes that the Roma and Romani/Tatars are concerned about the preservation and development of their languages, which they believe are in danger of dying out, and regret the lack of financial support, which would make it possible to breathe new life into these languages<sup>41</sup>.

67. At the same time, the Advisory Committee observed that the Romani/Tatars, in particular, had misgivings about any plans to carry out research and studies on their language and culture outside their community. For historical reasons in particular, they continue to see such initiatives as interference and a threat to the preservation of their culture and identity. They consider that most of the exhibitions concerning them, the material on display and the activities organised to publicise their culture, do not appropriately reflect their own views as to how their values and public image should be promoted.

68. The representatives of the Jews expressed concern about the difficulty in procuring **Kosher** products, which are the basic components of their traditional cuisine, especially on the occasion of religious days of particular importance to their community. These difficulties stem in particular from the health regulations governing the import of such products, particularly meat. The Advisory Committee noted that an inter-ministerial working group was studying the situation in conjunction with representatives of this minority. It hopes that suitable solutions will be found so that the difficulties reported can be overcome.

*Recommendations*

69. The Advisory Committee encourages the authorities to step up their efforts to support the cultural activities of national minorities by ascertaining their needs in co-operation with representatives of these minorities and endeavouring to adapt the arrangements made and the resources allocated more effectively to the specific needs identified. This includes the preservation and development of the languages of persons belonging to national minorities, including the Roma and Romani/Tatars.

70. In response to the request of the Roma, the competent authorities are encouraged to pursue with vigour specific proposals regarding the establishment of a Roma Community Centre in Oslo.

71. The Advisory Committee encourages the authorities to ensure that, when the museum reform is carried out, the specific expectations and sensibilities of the minorities are suitably taken into account and that an appropriate place is provided for the cultures of minorities in the national network of museums. In addition, due attention should be paid to the representation of national minorities in the management of the relevant structures and in decision-making in this area.

iv. None of these words

**Text**

This exact word or phrase

All of these words

Any of these words

None of these words

Near these words

Boolean search

**OK** **CANCEL** **CLEAR**

**'None of these words'** searches for documents where a given word does not appear. It is useful if you want to search for a term which is often used with another, but without that other term. Here, for example, I want to find where 'dialogue' is used independently of 'intercultural'.

Click Ok, and then click search, and you will see all instances where the word 'dialogue' appears without the word 'intercultural'.

Select the document you wish to see, and the words will be highlighted.

(1 of 483) Fourth Opinion on Albania (Article 15)  
 Cycle: 4 | English | Adoption date: 11/10/2018 | Advisory Committee  
 Document URL: http://hudoc.fcnm.coe.int/eng/?i=4th\_OP\_Albania\_en-13

View Case Details Related

Cycle: 4 | English | Adoption date: 11/10/2018 | Advisory Committee

**Article 15 of the Framework Convention**  
**Government bodies responsible for minorities and dialogue with minorities**

138. The existing State Committee on Minorities does not fulfil its function as a representative body of national minorities, and the authorities acknowledge this fact.<sup>131</sup> Identified shortcomings include a lack of representativity, of recourse to state institutions involved in drafting state policies or strategies for minorities (including the absence of an obligation on their part to seek the Committee's views when drafting such policies and strategies), the lack of a mechanism for involving the Committee in the work of local authorities and the absence of any decision-making functions.

139. The Law on the Protection of National Minorities adopted in October 2017 foresees the establishment of a new Committee on National Minorities, under the auspices of the Prime Minister, to be composed of representatives of all recognised national minorities. Each national minority is entitled to be represented by one member, to be appointed for a period of four years by the Prime Minister from among the candidates fielded by the associations representing them. The number of mandates of members of the committee is not restricted. The Prime Minister shall also directly appoint a chairperson and a deputy chairperson of the committee. The Advisory Committee notes with concern that procedures and rules for the development of this process shall be regulated by a decision of the Council of Ministers, as proposed by the Prime Minister, and therefore will not allow for a truly independent committee.

140. The law stipulates that the future Committee on National Minorities will be a consultative organ whose competences will include (among others) making recommendations and providing opinions regarding draft legislation, policies and programmes related to the rights of national minorities, making recommendations to the Council of Ministers, ministries and other central institutions, as well as to bodies of local governance on issues related to national minorities, submitting periodic reports to Parliament on the situation of national minorities, monitoring implementation of the legal framework and state policies on national minorities and raising awareness of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities and strengthening dialogue with the national minority associations. Members of the Committee on National Minorities will be employed as full-time civil servants and will receive salaries for performing their work.

141. The Advisory Committee further regrets to note that the law on national minorities does not address the issue of consultative mechanisms for persons belonging to national minorities at the local level. This is most regrettable as many issues, in particular those concerning education, use of national minority languages in contacts with local administration and for topographic indications, are within the competence (or the shared competence) of LGUs. The Advisory Committee also regrets that the absence of any institutionalised consultative mechanism jeopardises the implementation of the National Action Plan for the Integration of the Roma and Egyptians 2016-2020.

b. Simple Search tool

All of the above mentioned functions can also be carried out through the simple search box in the top right corner – using textual commands. The term you should search is underlined.

i. Exact word or phrase

Into the search box, type the phrase you wish to search *in citation marks*, e.g.: “discrimination against Roma”. This will give the same results as point 4.a.i.

ii. All of these words

Into the search box, type the words you wish to search with AND in between, e.g.: Roma AND discrimination AND access. This will give the same results as point 4.a.ii.

iii. Any of these words

Into the search box, type the words you wish to search with OR in between, e.g.: halal OR kosher. This will give the same results as point 4.a.ii.

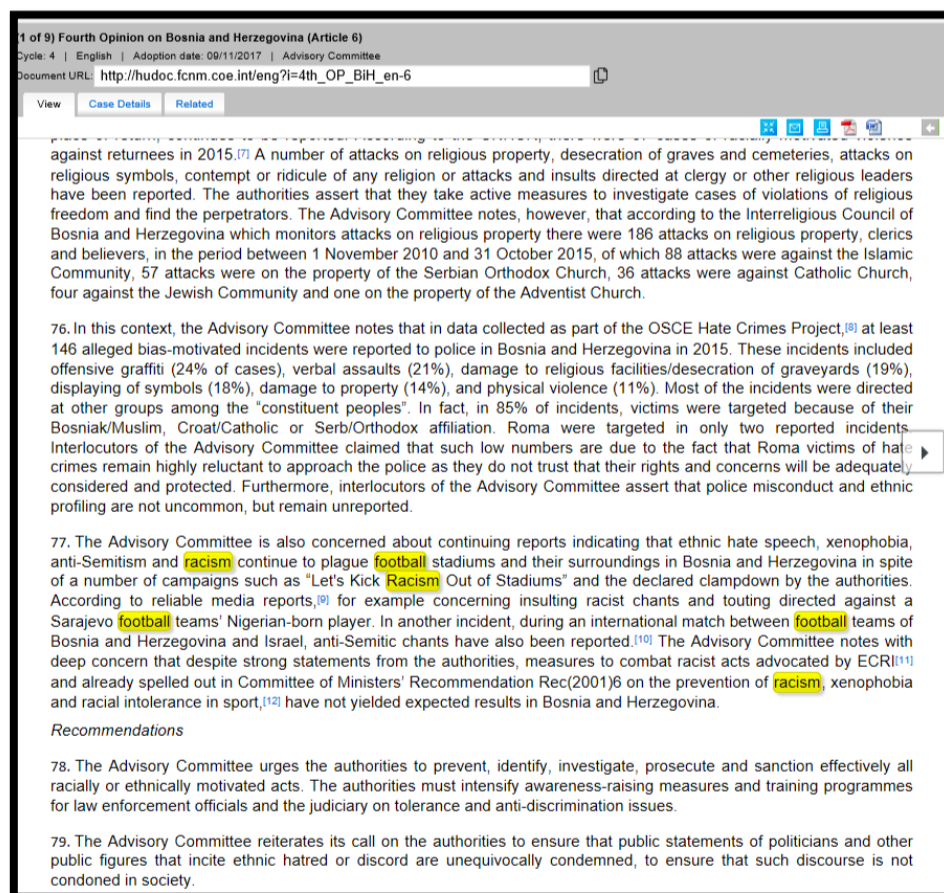
iv. None of these words

Into the search box, type the word you wish to search for followed by the word you wish to exclude from the search, e.g.: dialogue NOT intercultural. This will give the same results as point 4.a.iv.

v. NEAR these words

To search for words near other words, the principle is the same as above. Into the search box, type the words you wish to search for with NEAR in between, e.g.: football NEAR racism.

This will then give examples where the two terms appear relatively close to one another:



## 5. Navigation within documents

### a. Main view tab

To switch between sections, i.e. articles and chapters, use the selection panel on the right hand side:

Use the cross to close the document and return to the search results

Use the Arrows to switch between search results, NOT sections.

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the document. The title is "(87 of 5071) Fourth Opinion on Lithuania (Executive summary)". The document URL is "http://hudoc.fcnm.coe.int/eng?i=4th\_OP\_Lithuania\_en-1". The page has tabs for "View", "Case Details", and "Related". The main content area shows the document's summary, including the adoption date (30/05/2018) and the author (Advisory Committee). The table of contents on the right lists sections such as "Executive summary", "Key findings", "Article 3", "Article 4", "Article 5", "Article 6", "Article 8", "Article 9", "Article 10", "Article 10", "Article 12", "Article 14", "Article 15", "Article 18", and "Conclusions". A search results navigation bar is visible at the bottom of the document content, with left and right arrows. A close button (X) is located in the top right corner of the document viewer.

### b. Case details tab

Case details will show the details of the file, including adoption date, visit date, and document reference.

The screenshot shows the "Case Details" tab selected. The document details are as follows:

Document ID	4th_OP_Lithuania_en
Title	Fourth Opinion on Lithuania
Document Type	Opinions
State/Region	Lithuania
Language	English
Document Reference	ACFC/OP/IV(2018)004
Document Status	public
Section Title	Executive summary
Section Article	Executive summary
Author	Advisory Committee
Cycle	4
Adoption Date	30/05/2018
Visit Start Date	05/03/2018
Visit End Date	09/03/2018

c. Related tab

**(1 of 153) Fourth Opinion on Lithuania (Executive summary)**  
 Cycle: 4 | English | Adoption date: 30/05/2018 | Advisory Committee  
 Document URL: [http://hudoc.fcnm.coe.int/eng?i=4th\\_OP\\_Lithuania\\_en-1](http://hudoc.fcnm.coe.int/eng?i=4th_OP_Lithuania_en-1)

View Case Details **Related**

**Related Documents**

Opinions

- [First Opinion on Lithuania](#)
- [Second Opinion on Lithuania](#)
- [Third Opinion on Lithuania](#)
- [Fourth Opinion on Lithuania](#)

Government Comments

- [Comments of the Government on the First Opinion on Lithuania](#)
- [Comments of the Government on the Second Opinion on Lithuania](#)
- [Comments of the Government on the Third Opinion on Lithuania](#)
- [Comments of the Government on the Fourth Opinion on Lithuania](#)

Committee of Ministers Resolutions

- [Second Resolution on Lithuania](#)
- [Third Resolution on Lithuania](#)
- [First Resolution on Lithuania](#)

**Related Document in Other Language**

- [Quatrième Avis sur la Lituanie](#)

Related will show all documents related to the one you have selected, including related government comments, other cycle opinions, resolutions and other language versions.

Use these links should you wish to access an Opinion in its entirety, for example to export it or to share it (see below).

d. Other tools

**(87 of 5071) Fourth Opinion on Lithuania (Executive summary)**  
 Cycle: 4 | English | Adoption date: 30/05/2018 | Advisory Committee  
 Document URL: [http://hudoc.fcnm.coe.int/eng?i=4th\\_OP\\_Lithuania\\_en-1](http://hudoc.fcnm.coe.int/eng?i=4th_OP_Lithuania_en-1)

View Case Details Related

Cycle: 4 | English | Adoption date: 30/05/2018 | Advisory Committee  
**Summary**

Lithuanian society is largely characterised by tolerance and respect with regard to persons belonging to national minorities. The authorities continue to maintain an inclusive approach towards the scope of application of the Framework Convention. A Department for National Minorities has been re-established, which has rendered national minority issues more visible in national politics and improved co-ordination of various policy areas affecting national minorities. The absence of a comprehensive legislative framework, however, continues to impede the implementation of a number of important language rights contained within the Framework Convention. These concern in particular the spelling of names in official documents and the use of minority languages on topographic indications. Public debates on these issues continue to be highly politicised, which appears disproportionate and not conducive to finding pragmatic solutions.

Some progress has been made in the socio-economic inclusion of Roma. The government's "Action plan for Roma integration into Lithuanian society 2015-2020" and Vilnius municipality's "Programme for Social Integration of the Community of the Vilnius (Kirtimai) Roma Settlement" have started to yield results. The implementation of these plans will require careful monitoring, effective participation, the inclusion of Roma women and further investment in order to be sustainable. Societal attitudes against Roma are very negative and are at the root of discrimination against Roma in the labour and housing markets, as well as in the education system.

The introduction of a unified Lithuanian language curriculum and state exam in 2012 caused significant problems for students from minority language schools, despite the measures taken during the eight-year transition period. In particular, students from Polish minority language schools with little exposure to Lithuanian in their family environment and extra-curricular activities have difficulties with the Lithuanian language exam. A careful monitoring of the situation, effective participation of minority language teachers, and an evidence-based rather than deadline-driven approach in the further roll-out of the education reform are crucial to avoid the risk of excluding some parts of the country's youth.

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