

## **APPENDIX: GOVERNMENT'S VIEWPOINT**

**The following appendix does not form part of ECRI's analysis and proposals concerning the situation in Norway**

ECRI, in accordance with its country-by-country procedure, engaged in confidential dialogue with the authorities of Norway on a first draft of the report. A number of the authorities' comments were taken on board and integrated into the report's final version (which only takes into account developments up until 19 June 2014, date of the examination of the first draft).

The authorities also requested that the following viewpoint be reproduced as an appendix to the report.

## **ECRI Report on Norway - viewpoint to be set out in an appendix**

The Norwegian Government refers to the comments concerning the cartoon published by the newspaper Dagbladet in May 2013 and its relation to the Code of Ethics of the Norwegian Press. It should be noted that the Norwegian Press Complaints Commission, which is a self-regulatory body supervising and furthering ethical and professional standards of the press, ruled that the publishing of the cartoon was not in breach of the ethical code. The reasoning was i.a. that there traditionally have been very broad limits for the use of humor and satire in Norwegian public debate. The Commission also stated that satire is a form of expression which must be allowed to offend and be perceived as very uncomfortable without constituting a breach of the ethical code.