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

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¹ Except where specifically indicated, any developments which occurred after 28 September 2018, the date on which the response of the Cypriot authorities to ECRI's request for information on measures taken to implement the recommendations chosen for interim follow-up was received, have not been taken into account in this analysis.

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FOREWORD

As part of its fifth 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 fifth monitoring cycle brought to the attention of the Ministers' Deputies on 14 November 2012¹, 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 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(2012)1154/4.2.

1. *In its report on Cyprus (fifth monitoring cycle) published on 7 June 2016, ECRI strongly recommended that the Commissioner for Administration and Human Rights is consulted on all appointments of staff to her office, thereby contributing to her independence, and that the authorities allocate an adequate budget for her to carry out her functions properly.*

According to the Constitution and the Public Service Law, the recruitment of civil servants to all public services including independent authorities such as the Office of the Commissioner for Administration and Human Rights is the responsibility of the Public Service Commission. Although the specific qualifications required by staff in her office are drafted by the Commissioner for Administration, it appears that she is still not consulted on appointments. Therefore, this part of the recommendation has not been implemented.

As concerns the budget, the Office of the Commissioner for Administration and Human Rights has its own separate budget which is controlled and managed by the Commissioner. ECRI was informed by the authorities that the Council of Ministers has approved the establishment of four additional posts in the Office of the Commissioner for Administration for 2019. The operating budget in 2017 was slightly increased from 2016, but no further data is available since then.

ECRI notes with concern that the Office of the Commissioner for Administration has not carried out any activities aimed at supporting vulnerable groups or communication activities, and has not issued any publications or reports, including annual reports, or recommendations on discrimination issues since 2016.¹ It will follow up on these matters in its sixth monitoring cycle.

Overall, ECRI considers that its recommendation has been partially implemented.

2. *In its report on Cyprus published on 7 June 2016, ECRI strongly recommended that the authorities develop a new integration plan for non-nationals, including foreign domestic workers, refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection and other migrants. This should be done in close cooperation with the UNHCR, relevant NGOs and migrant associations, and should be accompanied by an awareness-raising campaign to inform the public, as well as employers and financial institutions, about the rights of beneficiaries of international protection.*

According to information provided by the authorities, a call for proposals for a National Plan on Integration of Migrants for the years 2020-2022 was published in January 2018 with the deadline set for September 2018.

In February 2019, ECRI was informed that the Civil Registry and Migration Department will enter into an agreement with a joint venture for the drafting of the above-mentioned plan as well as its promotion and implementation, following consultations with government bodies, local authorities, NGOs, international organisations, immigrant organisations and academics.

ECRI is encouraged to learn that the development of a national integration plan for migrants, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, is in the early stages. However, since no draft document or proposal relating to the content of the future integration plan is available, ECRI can only consider that its recommendation has not yet been implemented.

¹ See Equinet website: www.equineteurope.org/Office-of-the-Commissioner-for.

