

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

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¹ Except where specifically indicated, any developments which occurred after 25 December 2018, the date on which the response of the authorities of North Macedonia 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 North Macedonia¹ (fifth monitoring cycle) published on 7 June 2016, ECRI recommended that the authorities fill all the vacant positions in the Ombudsman's office as a first step towards ensuring that the office is adequately staffed in proportion to its workload. In this connection, the authorities should also provide secretarial support staff to the Commission for the Protection against Discrimination.*

ECRI has been informed that, in 2017, the Ombudsman's office received consent from the Ministry of Finance to fill 10 vacant positions. In August 2018, out of a total of 142 positions that exist in the Ombudsman's office in accordance with the applicable public sector "Rulebook on the Systemisation of Jobs", 79 were filled. This proportion shows that while having added staff is a positive sign, there remain very significant challenges with respect to human resources.

With regard to the second part of this recommendation, ECRI was informed by the authorities that the draft revised Law on the Prevention and Protection against Discrimination contains a provision for establishing a support service for the professional, administrative and technical work of the Commission for the Protection against Discrimination. ECRI welcomes this step, but also notes that it has not yet been adopted and applied.

Although ECRI underlines that the above-mentioned measures are still insufficient, it considers that the recommendation has been partially implemented.

2.) *In its report on North Macedonia published on 7 June 2016, ECRI recommended that the authorities carry out an independent comprehensive study on all forms of discrimination against LGBT persons jointly with the LGBT community. This study should also pave the way towards preparing and adopting an action plan to end such forms of discrimination.*

The authorities informed ECRI that the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the relevant government body in charge of equal opportunities and non-discrimination policies, is working with the LGBT community. However, ECRI was also informed that the authorities have not carried out an independent comprehensive study on all forms of discrimination against LGBT persons, as recommended by ECRI.

ECRI therefore considers that this recommendation has not been implemented.

¹ As of 12 February 2019, the official name of "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" changed to North Macedonia.

