

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF ECRI'S WORKING GROUP ON RELATIONS WITH CIVIL SOCIETY AND EQUALITY BODIES

Preamble

In order to pursue all aspects of its mandate, which extend beyond country monitoring and general policy recommendations,

In accordance with its Statute, which provides that ECRI shall adopt its programme that shall include an aspect of relations with civil society (Article 10), develop relations with civil society, have activities aimed at promoting dialogue and mutual respect among the general public and organise awareness-raising and information activities (Article 13),

Following its long-established working methods, aimed at strengthening the link between its three main areas of activity (country monitoring, general policy recommendations and relations with civil society), through mutual reinforcement.

Recognising the special importance of relations with the equality bodies entrusted with combating racism and intolerance at national level,

ECRI sets up a permanent Working Group on Relations with Civil Society and Equality Bodies, with the following terms of reference and composition:

Terms of Reference

1. The Working Group, subject to the approval of its proposals by ECRI's plenary, shall
 - organise discussions with the equality bodies as per ECRI's General Policy Recommendation No. 2 (revised) on equality bodies to combat racism and intolerance at national level;
 - review the organisation of round tables or similar events to discuss the findings and recommendations of ECRI's country reports with representatives of the competent authorities, equality body(ies) and civil society of the member state(s) concerned;
 - organise hearings or other appropriate activities on civil-society and equality-body matters relevant to ECRI's mandate;
 - develop and follow up on ECRI's communication strategy in order to publicise ECRI's message and work.
2. The Working Group shall perform any other tasks assigned to it by ECRI's plenary.

Composition

3. The Working Group shall consist of five members of ECRI elected by ECRI's plenary for a term of three years, which shall be once renewable.
4. Should a member of the Working Group resign or be unable for any other reason to complete his/her term of office, he/she will be replaced by another ECRI member elected by ECRI's plenary for a new three-year term.
5. The Chair of the Working Group shall be elected by its members.