

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO BULGARIA – Add.2

NETHERLANDS

- **Rights of the child**

The Netherlands would like to compliment the Bulgarian government with taking up so actively the issue of children in institutions, as indicated in paragraph 58 and paragraphs 102-112 of the national report. As described in paragraph 111 of the national report, the de-institutionalisation strategy ‘Vision for Children’s Deinstitutionalization in the republic of Bulgaria’ is a clear step forward and the Netherlands will continue to actively support this policy. Paragraph 112 of the national report refers to the implementation of this document, namely the preparation of an Action Plan 2010-2020 which is hopefully going to be adopted later this year. Could the government of Bulgaria elaborate on the different measures that are under consideration? What role is envisaged for a more effective State Agency for Child Protection, which until now has only had advisory functions as described in paragraph 58 of the national report?

- **Rights of vulnerable groups**

Paragraphs 145 – 153 of the national report give an overview of the recent actions taken to guarantee the rights of vulnerable groups (persons with disabilities/elderly people). In light of the deinstitutionalization process regarding children as mentioned above and in reference to paragraph 153 of the national report, does the Bulgarian government plan to develop deinstitutionalisation policies for other vulnerable groups such as elderly people, psychiatric patients and adults with disabilities, as it did for children?

- **Children with mental disability**

Considering paragraphs 124 and 125 of the national report, which states that Bulgarian legislation ensures equal access to education and training of children and pupils with special educational needs, including mentally retarded and disabled children, how will the government of Bulgaria address the problems identified in 2008 by European Committee for Social Rights concerning the access to education for children in institutions for children with a mental disability? How does this relate to the Bulgarian Protection against Discrimination Act as mentioned in paragraph 68 of the national report and the specific right to education and training as mentioned in paragraph 71 of the same report?

- **Protection of Roma**

The Netherlands acknowledges the efforts made by the government of Bulgaria to address Roma Integration. In reference to the ‘Decade of Roma Inclusion’ as referred to in paragraph 168 of the national report, how does the government of Bulgaria evaluate the first five years of the Roma integration policy? The Netherlands also commends the government of Bulgaria for the new Framework Programme for Integration of Roma in Bulgarian society as mentioned in paragraph 167 of the national report and would like to request

further elaboration on the plans of involving the Roma community itself in the years to come?

- **Administration of justice**

Considering paragraphs 35 of the OHCHR compilation which mention that the Committee of the Rights of the Child (CRC) expressed concern in 2008 that Bulgaria did not establish juvenile courts or chambers within existing settlements and furthermore considering paragraph 37 of the OHCHR compilation which state that Committee Against Torture (CAT) expressed concern at the lack of an independent system to investigate complaints and that allegations of ill-treatment were not always investigated promptly and impartially, how will Bulgaria ensure citizens' access to quality administration of justice and in what way are the rights of defendants protected in the current reform process in the judiciary?

- **Commission for the Protection against Discrimination**

In reference to paragraphs 52-57 of the national report submitted by the government of Bulgaria, what active policy does Bulgaria foresee to reduce discrimination against Roma, LGBT and minorities in general and what is Bulgaria's first evolution of the Commission for the Protection against Discrimination?