

**UPR: Bulgaria  
COC Netherlands & ILGA-Europe  
United Nations Human Rights Council, Geneva, March 17<sup>th</sup> 2011**

Presented by Björn van Roozendaal

Mr. President, distinguished members of the delegation,

I am pleased to make this statement on behalf of the COC Netherlands and ILGA-Europe. During the UPR process of Bulgaria recommendations were made to adopt legislation to prevent discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation; develop effective measures to overcome continuing discriminatory patterns against LGBT persons through education and training; continue efforts to overcome stereotypical attitudes regarding the roles of men and women and existing gender inequality and study the possibility of introducing a criminal aggravating factor for racial and religious hatred or hatred against persons with a minority sexual orientation.

Whilst we commend Bulgaria for all positive steps it has taken in the past years to progress the human rights of LGBT people, we want to reiterate the need to implement these recommendations. It is in particular important that effective hate-crime legislation is developed and implemented, as hate specifically targeted towards minority groups requires specific attention by courts.

We commend Bulgaria's support for developing measures to overcome continuing discriminatory patterns against LGBT people and ethnic minorities, and we ask encourage Bulgaria to include civil society in the development of such education and training programs.

Finally we suggest that Bulgaria further develops its work in this field by applying the *Yogyakarta Principles on the Application of International Human Rights Law in relation to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity* as a guide to assist policy-making in this area.

Thank you Mr. President