

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO CROATIA – Add.2

SWEDEN

- In its national report to the UPR, the Government of Croatia outlined mechanisms in place to supervise the treatment of prisoners. In its latest consideration in 2004 of Croatia, however, the Committee noted with concern that no prosecution or conviction for alleged crimes of torture had taken place in Croatia. In 2007, the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) indicated that a not insignificant number of persons interviewed during its visit to the Republic of Croatia made allegations of physical ill-treatment at the time of apprehension or during subsequent questioning by police officers. It added that in certain cases, the ill-treatment alleged was of such severity that it could be considered as amounting to torture.

Could the Government of Croatia elaborate on effective measures to ensure impartial, full and prompt investigations into all allegations of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, as well as appropriate prosecution and punishment of the perpetrators, in accordance with its obligations as party to the Convention against the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment?

- Several NGO's have indicated various cases of discrimination against persons with intellectual disabilities in Croatia. One report stress that children with disabilities were refused access to most kindergartens, although the law prescribed for their integration. It also reported that, within primary education, apart from children categorised as persons with a mild intellectual disability, children with intellectual disabilities were referred to special schools. Moreover, the Croatian Association of Deafblind Persons reported that deafblind persons face discrimination, notably as far as communication and mobility are concerned.

Could the Government of Croatia elaborate on measures to protect and promote the rights of persons, notably children with disabilities, in accordance with its commitments under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities?

SWITZERLAND

- **Discrimination**

In the documents under consideration, there are reports of discriminations against non-Croatian minorities (Serb, Bosniak, Roma) and of societal prejudice against minority groups. Could you provide us with information on efforts made by the government in order to promote inter-ethnic harmony and tolerance?

Switzerland notes that Croatia adopted the Action Plan for the decade of Roma Inclusion 2005 – 2010. However some observers report that it has not been fully implemented in particular regarding school programmes for Roma children. Could you tell us what obstacles you encountered in putting into practice this Action Plan and what follow-up to the Action Plan you envisage?

- **Detention**

Could you give us more information about when the draft National Prevention Mechanism of Torture legislation will be adopted by the parliament and when the NPM will be established?

- **Freedom of expression**

Several observers reported that acts of intimidation and attacks on journalists have sometimes not been properly investigated. Could you give us your assessment regarding this situation and what measures you take in order to improve it?

- **Justice**

Excessive length of courts proceedings in civil and administrative cases, as well as problems related to war crimes trials are mentioned as key problems in the judiciary. Could you provide us with information on measures taken or foreseen to address these issues?