

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO CYPRUS

CZECH REPUBLIC

- The assessment report on the implementation of the National Action Plan on Gender Equality indicated a significant progress in achieving the main goals of the action plan and identified areas where there is room for further improvement. Could you specify in which areas further advancement is needed and what measures are envisaged to achieve it?

GERMANY

- The EU Commission has ultimately asked Cyprus in November 2013, to finally implement the EU directive on trafficking (of 2011). What is the status of implementation of the EU directive against human trafficking? In addition, Germany would like to learn, what further measures are planned to improve the prosecution and sentencing of traffickers?
- Media frequently reports of excessive use of force by the police – allegedly taking place both in arrest as well as in police custody cases. Not infrequently, foreign nationals are victims of these acts of violence. What action will the Government of the Republic of Cyprus take to counteract this phenomenon?

NETHERLANDS

- Can the government of Cyprus indicate how it intends to address the criticisms in the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) of August 2013 regarding the lack of effective implementation of the legislative, institutional and other measures taken to combat racial discrimination? In particular, how does Cyprus intend to implement the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination?
- How does the government of Cyprus plan to improve the plight of asylum seeking children and to give full effect to the Refugee Law, in accordance with the European Union asylum acquis and international protection standards?
- Could the government of Cyprus give some insight in the progress it is making in transposing the European Union directive against Human Trafficking in its national legislation?
- Can the government of Cyprus indicate how it has improved the resources and visibility of women's rights institutions in Cyprus?

- How does the government of Cyprus guarantee the financial and operational independence of the Ombudsman?

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

- Does Cyprus intend to amend the Criminal Code to criminalise public incitement of acts against persons on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, and put in place plans to recognise same sex partnerships?
- In light of the rise of incidences of racially motivated abuse and physical attacks by against persons of foreign origin, what measures will Cyprus take to prevent the occurrence of such acts in future?
- Given the recent suicides in Nicosia Central Prisons, how and when will Cyprus examine alternative measures for offenders, improve detention conditions, and respect the rights of prisoners?
- Please could you outline the steps Cyprus will take to ensure the Ombudsman has full operational independence and ensure it is in full compliance with the Paris Principles?
- What assurances can Cyprus give that the rights of individuals from religious and cultural communities to uphold their traditions will be upheld, and that any existing undue obstacles, in particular for members of small and non-traditional religious or belief communities, to establishing religious buildings, places of worship or cemeteries and purchasing real estate for such purposes be analysed and removed?