

## ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO SWEDEN – Add.5

### **AZERBAIJAN**

- The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) expressed concern at increased reports of racially motivated hate speech against visible minorities, including Muslims, Afro-Swedes, Roma and Jews, particularly by some far-rights politicians and at the reported increase in hate speech in the media and on the Internet. OSCE/ODIHR, in its hate speech report stated that 5,518 hate crimes were recorded by police in 2012. CERD recommended Sweden to effectively investigate, prosecute and punish all hate crimes and take effective measures to combat hate speech in the media and on the Internet. CERD also noted with concern that racist and extremist organizations continued to function.

*Which measures are envisaged by the Government to prevent such negative trends in the society?*

- Physical assaults against members of religious minorities and increased attacks against mosques cause a deep concern. The Human Rights Committee requested information on measures taken to ensure equal enjoyment of the rights to freedom of religion and belief and on whether Sweden intended to address the chronically negative portrayal in the media of members of the Muslim minority. CoE-ECRI reported that xenophobic and islamophobic parties had gained ground over the past few years. Anti-Muslim political discourse had become more widespread and the tone had hardened. Online racism had continued to grow and islamophobic comment had proliferated.

*How does the Government of Sweden intend to promote tolerance and respect for diversity, combat religious intolerance and investigate the cases of attacks against members of religious minorities and mosques?*

- The Human Rights Committee noted the police violence and excessive use of force in Sweden. Joint submissions indicated that between January 2013 and May 2014 police interventions ended in the deaths of seven persons as a result of the use of firearms by the police and recommended Sweden to undertake an impartial and speedy investigation into the increase of fatal police violence as a matter of urgency and bring those responsible to justice.

*What are the plans of the Swedish Government to address the disturbing trend of police misconduct and abuse?*