

## ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO AUSTRIA

### **BELGIUM**

- Is the Government of Austria considering to ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as well as the Third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child?
- Which concrete measures has the Government of Austria taken to follow-up on recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women regarding narrowing the gender pay gap and ensuring equal opportunities for women on the labor market?
- Is the Government of Austria considering abolishing all legal inequalities between registered same-sex partnership and marriage and creating a focal point for LGBTI matters on the federal level?
- How is the Government of Austria ensuring comprehensive and coherent data collection concerning racially motivated crimes?

### **SLOVENIA**

- We welcome the information offered by Austria on human rights education in the national report. Please provide more information on teaching materials and human rights training provided for prospective and practicing teachers.
- Federal provinces in Austria have different approaches to regulating education in minority languages. An example of good practice is an inclusive approach envisaging pupils' automatic application to bilingual courses if he/she does not explicitly decide against it (such as in Burgenland). Does Austria plan to encourage its other federal provinces (such as Carinthia) to adopt such an approach to bilingual education in public schools?
- The new Ethnic Groups Act of July 2011 has only partly resolved the issue of bilingual topography. How and through which steps does Austria intend to guarantee the Slovenian minority the possibility to use the Slovene language in all municipal offices and at courts, in places covering the traditional settlement area of Slovenians in Carinthia and Styria, therefore also in municipalities that are not explicitly mentioned in Annex 2 to the Ethnic Groups Act (Federal Law Gazette No. 46/2011)?
- When does Austria envisage the erection of new bilingual topographic and other public signs in Carinthia in line with the decisions of the Constitutional Court and the Memorandum, signed by the Governor of the Federal Province of Carinthia, State Secretary in the Federal Chancellery and the presidents of the three organisations of the Slovenian minority in Carinthia on 26 April 2011?

- When does Austria plan to amend the Ethnic Groups Act to reflect commitments from the above-mentioned Memorandum signed in April 2011?
- Does the Republic of Austria envisage amendments to media legislation for the benefit of a greater share of financing for minority media?
- We welcome the fact that the Province of Carinthia resolved the long-standing issue of a systemic solution for the Slovenian music school, which became the 28th provincial music school in 2015/2016 school year. However, we need to point to the fact that the number of lessons for the Slovene music school has been halved, curtailing its activity. When and how will the Province of Carinthia ensure the adequate number of lessons maintained in previous years? */In the 2015/2016 school year, the Slovenian music school in Carinthia can provide lessons for a smaller number of Slovenian children and a smaller number of instruments./*