

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO LITHUANIA

2ND BATCH

BELGIUM

- Belgium congratulates Lithuania on the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Optional Protocol to the International Convention against Torture. When does the Government of Lithuania foresee the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights?
- Is the Government of Lithuania considering amending its laws on anti-discrimination and equal opportunities to ensure that they explicitly protect women, as recommended by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women?
- Does the Government of Lithuania intend to criminalize domestic violence and marital rape? When does the Government of Lithuania foresee the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence?
- Belgium welcomes the new action plan for Roma integration for 2015-2020. What measures are being taken to address the concerns of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights concerning the lack of progress achieved in addressing social exclusion of and discrimination against Roma?

CZECHIA

- How is ensured independent and effective functioning of the national preventive mechanism according to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture ratified in 2014?
- What concrete measures has the Government enacted to improve conditions in prisons and to eliminate overcrowding?
- What concrete measures has the Government introduced to address comprehensively various forms of discrimination, e.g., based on sexual orientation and gender identity or religion or disability? Does it consider revising the Law on the Protection of Minors against the Detrimental Effect of Public Information so that it cannot be used as a pretext for discrimination against persons based on sexual orientation and gender identity?

GERMANY

- Germany recognizes that Lithuania seeks to improve the prison conditions and welcomes the efforts undertaken so far. However, the overcrowding and living conditions in prisons are still worrying. **Which strategies has Lithuania developed to implement alternative penalties? How is Lithuania planning to achieve the goals of the Prison Modernization Program by 2022?**
- Regarding the right to a fair trial, Germany takes note of the partial implementation of the relevant EU guidelines. Nevertheless, structural deficits in criminal proceedings still remain, for example regarding legal aid and the defense of minors, persons with disabilities and accused in need of a translator. **Which concrete measures has Lithuania taken since the last UPR to safeguard the right to a fair trial?**
- Since the last UPR Lithuania has adopted several legislative initiatives which may restrict the freedom of expression and may have the effect of discriminating against LGBTI individuals. **How does Lithuania guarantee the protection of LGBTI persons and which concrete**

measures does Lithuania plan to encourage tolerance and non-discrimination of LGBTI, inter alia through respective school curricula?

- Since the start of the migration crisis Lithuania has intensified its efforts to integrate migrants/refugees and to improve their living and working conditions. **How does Lithuania evaluate the current situation and treatment of migrants and asylum seekers/refugees and how does Lithuania plan to address xenophobia?**

SLOVENIA

- We welcome the Seimas Ombudsperson's Office application to the UN for its accreditation as a NHRI under the Paris principles. Please provide more information on the status of the application.
- In view of the criticism of the obligatory spelling of all minority languages names in Lithuanian in official documents and the increasing role of the state language in minority language schools, is Lithuania considering further examining these provisions?

SPAIN

- In 2015, Lithuania established a Department of National Minorities. Will it help to finally adopt the Law on National Minorities, which is currently under consideration at Seimas?
- Last year also, the *Seimas* was due to vote on a bill that eventually might restrict freedom of expression and freedom of assembly, for example on considering “public denigration of constitutional moral values” a crime. The vote was finally postponed from the parliamentary agenda. Is the Lithuanian Government thinking on sending again such a bill to the *Seimas*? Could you be more explicit about Lithuanian Government’s commitment with the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression?
- President Dalia Grybauskaitė has stated that national discussions about homophobia are required in Lithuania. How does the government plan to increase tolerance levels regarding discrimination on the basis of sexual orientations, gender identity or same-sex partnership?