

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO SERBIA (SECOND BATCH)

GERMANY

- Several draft laws concerning the rule of law or fundamental rights have been waiting for their adoption for a long time, among them the “Free Legal Aid” law as well as for the law on asylum and migrants. Does Serbia have a concrete time line for the adoption of these laws?
- Serbia has made impressive improvements regarding the safeguarding of rights of members of the LGBTI community. However, discrimination of them still occurs on a daily basis. Which measures does Serbia plan to apply in order to further reduce everyday discrimination?
- Various laws have been adopted to improve the legal situation of the Roma population. However, problems remain regarding registration, housing and education of this vulnerable group. How does Serbia plan to effectively implement the existing legal framework?
- Many alleged perpetrators who committed crimes under international law have not been persecuted yet. How will Serbia improve the national prosecution and work off the backlog of cases?

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN & NORTHERN IRELAND

- Independent media monitoring and reports from the OSCE Election Assessment Mission raised concerns about the unequal media coverage in the run up to the April 2017 Presidential elections. What assurances can the Serbian government give that these concerns are being taken seriously and that measures will be put in place to ensure media coverage in future election campaigns is balanced, equal and independent in tone?
- According to independent reports, Serbia has witnessed an increase in threats to journalists and human rights defenders, with media campaigns labelling them as “traitors” or “foreign mercenaries”. How does the Serbian government plan to tackle this problem, and enable journalists and human rights defenders to enjoy full freedom of expression in Serbia?
- Can the government of Serbia provide assurances that independent institutions in the country have the capacity, political support and freedom to act fully, in order to exercise an effective scrutiny on government?
- What measures will the government of Serbia put in place to allow the culture of impunity to be dismantled, particularly when it comes to war crimes and rights of victims?
- Ahead of the elections for NMCs in 2018, what steps will the Government of Serbia take to further promote the effectiveness of *National Minority Councils* in order to

advance the rights of individuals belong to minority groups and devolving powers to national minorities?

LIECHTENSTEIN

- Liechtenstein recognizes Serbia's commitment to international criminal justice, as evidenced by its ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC).
- **What steps has Serbia taken to ratify the Kampala amendments to the Rome Statute on the crime of aggression?**
- **What steps has Serbia taken to join the Code of Conduct regarding Security Council action against genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes, as elaborated by the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency Group (ACT)?**

SWITZERLAND

- Since the last UPR, the Serbian Government adopted the *National Strategy for the Prosecution of War Crimes* for the period 2016-2020. However this strategy does not include criteria that determine whom can be considered a victim and what would be the victims' entitlements. **What measures does Serbia envisage to adopt in order to guarantee to civilian victims of war the right to justice and reparation?**
- The Serbian Government has also adopted a *Strategy on the Prevention and Protection against Discrimination* (2014-2018) and an *Action plan for the realization of rights of national minorities*, which will foster the implementation of relevant laws (including the *Law on Prevention and Protection against Discrimination* and the *Law on employment in the autonomous provinces and local self-governments*). **How will Serbia ensure that all national minorities have effectively equal access to employment in local and national institutions, considering its decision to limit the number of employees in the public administration as well as the absence of a data system desegregating jobs occupied by national minorities?**

PORTUGAL

- Could the State-under-review describe its national mechanism or process responsible for coordinating the implementation of accepted UPR recommendations and the monitoring of progress and impact?
- Has the State-under-review established a dedicated 'national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up' (NMIRF) covering UPR recommendations, but also recommendations/observations generated by the UN human rights Treaty Bodies, the Special Procedures and relevant regional mechanisms? If so, could the State-under-review briefly share its experience on creating such mechanism, including challenges faced and lessons learnt, as well as any plans or needs to strengthen the NMIRF in the future?

CZECH REPUBLIC

- How does the Government protect and strengthen the independence of media? How are addressed threats or attacks against journalists?
- How does the Government monitor effectiveness of implementation of the legislation against domestic violence? Do measures in this area include strengthening of legal and psychosocial support and aid for the victims?
- How does the Government ensure protection of persons against violence based on their sexual orientation or gender identity and how is ensured access of victims of such violence to effective remedies?
- Which concrete steps does the Government take to strengthen independence of judicial power from the legislative and executive powers?
- What action does the Government take in order to establish proper investigation of cases of threats and assaults towards human rights defenders?

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- What steps has Serbia taken to allocate the funding necessary to implement the national Roma inclusion strategy?
- What measures has the government taken to ensure respect for fundamental worker rights, including the elimination of the worst forms of child labor?
- Civil society organizations have criticized the 2016 law on public assemblies for placing restrictions on the right of peaceful assembly, particularly prohibitions on public gatherings in front of healthcare institutions, schools, and facilities of strategic and special significance for state security and defense. What steps has the government taken to amend these restrictions and/or ensure the right of all individuals to assemble peacefully?

SLOVENIA

- We welcome the initiation of the adoption of the National Strategy for the Prevention and Suppression of Violence against Women and Young Girls in the Family and Partnership Relations. We would be interested to learn more about the measures to be included in the strategy.
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