

Press Release

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San Marino: Commissioner Hammarberg presents human rights report

Strasbourg, 30.04.2008 - The Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Thomas Hammarberg, today presented his latest report on San Marino. While praising the overall human rights situation in the country, he recommends further improvements, in particular regarding protection against discrimination and the promotion of children's and women's rights.

In the report, Commissioner Hammarberg calls for more comprehensive measures against all forms of discrimination and recommends that San Marino should include incitement to hatred and racism in the national penal code.

Mr Hammarberg suggests a legal ban on corporal punishment against children and recommends a child-friendly complaint mechanism. Moreover, the Commissioner observes that a separate justice system for minors is needed and recommends adopting a law to raise the age of criminal liability for minors to 14 years and offer separate procedures for those above 14.

On women's rights, Mr Hammarberg welcomes the campaign against domestic violence and recommends special legal provisions on violence against women and spousal rape.

Finally, Commissioner Hammarberg recommends practical measures to strengthen the protection system, in particular by establishing an independent national human rights body and ratifying the revised European Social Charter, as well as the United Nations' Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture.

Based on the findings of an official visit to San Marino in January 2008, the report and the government's response are available on the Commissioner's website (www.commissioner.coe.int).

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The Commissioner for Human Rights is an independent, non-judicial institution within the Council of Europe, mandated to promote awareness of, and respect for, human rights in the 47 member States of the Organisation. Elected by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the present Commissioner, Mr Thomas Hammarberg, took up his function on 1 April 2006.

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