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Council of Europe's Anti-Racism Commission publishes new report on Slovenia

Strasbourg, 16.09.2014 - The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance ([ECRI](#)) today published its fourth [report](#) on Slovenia. ECRI's Chair, Mr Christian Ahlund, noted steps forward, but also a number of outstanding issues, such as persistent widespread discrimination against Roma and an atmosphere of hostility towards the "erased".

Slovenia ratified Protocol No. 12 to the European Convention on Human Rights in 2010. Important steps have been taken to improve the situation of Roma, including the adoption of the Roma Community Act and the National Programme of Measures for Roma. All Roma have access to pre-schools, Roma assistants are being trained and an increased number of employment and public works projects for Roma have been launched. The "erased" have the possibility retroactively to reinstate their permanent residence status by applying, within three years, for a permanent residence permit. A law establishing a domestic compensation scheme for the "erased" has been enacted. Training has been initiated for police on stereotype and prejudice awareness and discrimination prevention in a multicultural community.

Despite these improvements, many Roma continue to live in isolated settlements well below the minimum standards and where there is often a lack of access to safe water. The Law Implementing the Principle of Equal Treatment is dysfunctional and the Advocate of the Principle of Equality lacks organisational and budgetary independence. Hate speech on the Internet has increased, targeting mainly Roma, LGBT people and Muslims. Finally, there is no body independent of the police and prosecution entrusted with the examination of cases of alleged police misconduct, including racist or racially discriminatory behaviour.

In its report, ECRI has made a number of recommendations to the authorities, among which the following three require priority implementation and will be revisited by ECRI in two years' time:

- a suitable solution should be found with all parties involved for a fully independent national specialised body to combat discrimination, including racial discrimination, to start operating as soon as possible;
- a suitable and fair solution should be found to compensate the "erased", as required by the European Court of Human Rights, as well as to resolve the legal status of any "erased" who wish to obtain Slovenian citizenship or permanent residence in Slovenia;
- immediate action should be taken to ensure that all Roma have practical access to safe water in or in the immediate vicinity of their settlements where this is still a problem.

The report, including Government observations, was prepared following ECRI's [contact visit](#) to Slovenia in April 2013 and takes account of developments up to 4 December 2013.

ECRI is a human rights body of the Council of Europe, composed of independent experts, which monitors problems of racism, xenophobia, antisemitism, intolerance and discrimination on grounds such as "race", national/ethnic origin, colour, citizenship, religion and language (racial discrimination); it prepares reports and issues recommendations to member States.

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