

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO ESTONIA

CZECH REPUBLIC

- What steps does the Government of Estonia consider to take in order to establish national human rights institution to meet the objectives of Paris Principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights? Does the Government intend to broaden a mandate of the Chancellor of Justice?
- Does the Government of Estonia consider amending Penal Code in order to bring a definition of torture in conformity with Article 1 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment?
- CAT remained concerned at allegations of brutality and excessive use of force by law enforcement personnel. It recommended that Estonia promptly, thoroughly and impartially investigate all acts of brutality and excessive use of force by law enforcement personnel and bring the perpetrators to justice. What steps have been taken in order to eliminate the cases of excessive use of force by law enforcement personnel?
- How does the Government proceed in tackling the problem of domestic violence? Is the Government introducing specific legal measures in this question?

DENMARK

- Will Estonia consider modifying the amendments in the “Bronze Night” act so that non-nationals, such as members of the Russian minority, cannot have their resident permits revoked?
- What will the Estonian authorities do to secure that there is no discrimination of the Russian-speaking minorities regarding employment in the public sector?
- How will Estonia ensure that the Equal Treatment Act is effectively enforced when the resources assigned to the Gender Equality and Equal Treatment Commissioner are extremely limited?
- Which steps are being taken to amend the Chancellor of Justice Act to make it compliant with the requirements in the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture in the context of the recommendations from the Committee against Torture and the Human Rights Committee?

GERMANY

- CAT expressed concerns on the overall conditions of detention and recommended that Estonia should ensure that all detained suspects are afforded, in practice, access to a lawyer and an independent medical examination, to be informed about their rights at the moment they are deprived of their liberty and to inform a relative.

Germany would appreciate, referring to para 24 of your National Report, more detailed information on how Estonia did follow-up on these recommendations.

NETHERLANDS

- **Integration of minorities**

With reference to paragraph 115 of the national report which set out the policy on Estonian language training, and in light of the concerns expressed in paragraphs 21 and 61 of the OHCHR compilation that the emphasis on the Estonian language in the Integration Strategy might run counter to the overall goal of the Strategy, how much progress has been made with the policy to have an Estonian language training programme in Russian language schools, by which the Government aims to improve the academic and professional opportunities of the Russian speaking community in Estonia? Furthermore, how does Estonia assess the results of this programme achieved so far?

With regards to the Integration Strategy and the above-mentioned policy on language training, could the Government's elaborate on other measures it takes to achieve the objective of better integration of the comparatively large community of Russian language speakers?

- **Gender equality**

Concerning the Gender Equality and Equal Treatment Commissioner, as mentioned in paragraphs 29, 30, 31 and 59 of the national report, and in light of the remarks in paragraph 10 of the OHCHR compilation on the insufficient resources allocated to the Commissioner, can the Government elaborate on its assessment of the results achieved so far by Gender Equality and Equal Treatment Commissioner?

- **Sexual minorities**

In light of the remark made in paragraph 61 of the national report which makes reference to the rights of same-sex couples, can the Government elaborate on how it assesses the situation of same-sex couples in Estonia, also in view of the Baltic Gay Parade which will be organised in 2011 in Tallinn? Moreover, does the Estonian government intend to launch any initiatives to make the general public more aware of the rights of LGBT people?

- **Racism**

With reference to paragraph 65 of the national report which mentions the Government's intention to amend the Penal Code to include the motive of hate as an aggravating circumstance in case of all offences, and in light of the concerns expressed by CERD, reiterated in paragraph 17, that racial motivation is not yet treated as an aggravating circumstance and similar concerns raised in paragraphs 13 and 14 of the stakeholder report, can the Government elaborate on how it intends to strengthen the paragraphs in the Penal Code which aim to deal with crimes motivated by racism?

- **Human trafficking**

In light of the policy measures against human trafficking detailed in part III G of the national report, and with reference to remarks in paragraphs 34 and 35 of the OHCHR compilation and paragraph 29 of the stakeholder report on the persistence of trafficking in Estonia, can the Government provide statistics on the scope of this problem?

SWEDEN

- Sweden would like to ask the Government of Estonia to elaborate on the status of prison conditions?
- What actions are taken to improve prisoners' living conditions?
- Sweden would like to ask the Government of Estonia what impact the Government expect the implementation of the Equal Treatment Act to have?
- What are the next steps Estonia will take to reinforce existing legislation?