

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO CROATIA

NETHERLANDS

- **Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law**

What concrete steps are taken by the authorities to intensify efforts to increase the prosecution of war crimes and combat impunity for war crimes and to improve the capacity of domestic courts and witness protection mechanisms to improve efficiency and effectiveness in domestic war crimes prosecution?

What measures will the government of Croatia take to address the insufficient funding after the expansion of the scope of beneficiaries and legal matters in the new Free Legal Aid Act? What measures will be taken to address the necessary autonomy of the Legal Aid Commission's role in developing the system?

- **Sexual violence and Equal Rights for Women**

What steps will the authorities take to improve gender equality, including further measures to ensure women's timely and non-discriminatory access to safe, legal, affordable and acceptable reproductive and sexual health services? When is the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence foreseen?

- **Anti-discrimination**

What concrete measures are taken by the authorities to dissolve uncertainties about the limits and interpretations of certain grounds of discrimination in the implementation of the Anti-Discrimination Act, especially with regard to some minority groups such as national minorities and LGBT persons?

NORWAY

- During the EU accession process, Croatia intensified efforts to combat discrimination and ensure equal treatment of all ethnicities. However, the Ombudsman Office and certain NGOs have expressed concerns that these efforts have now weakened. The discrimination of minorities, Serbs and Roma in particular, remains a challenge. What will Croatia do to increase the protection of minorities, and promote the participation of minorities in all aspects of society?

- What concrete measures will be taken to further promote inter-ethnic harmony in Eastern Slavonia? How will Croatia improve the effective implementation of language and education rights of the Serb minority?
- Norway welcomes the amendments to the Penal Code in 2013, stipulating stricter penalties for hate crimes and the establishment of the Working Group for Monitoring Hate Crime. How will Croatia ensure that the public at large is well informed about the gravity of hate crime violence?
- We are concerned with the lack of progress in the EHCR cases concerning inadequate investigations of war crimes during the war in Croatia. What is the status with regards to the implementation of these judgments?

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

- Please could you provide information on measures taken by the Government of Croatia to ensure nation-wide, sustainable support for full recovery of female victims of domestic violence and measures taken towards the prevention of all forms of violence against women?
- What steps has the Government of Croatia taken to enhance the capacity of law enforcement institutions to investigate and prosecute hate crimes and what measures have been taken by local authorities to reduce discrimination against Serb and Roma communities?
- What progress has the Government of Croatia made to ensure equal employment opportunities for LGBT people and people from other minority groups and what action is the Government taking to promote gender-equality education?
- What is the Government of Croatia doing to ensure that trials for war crimes cases are fair and non-discriminatory and to ensure standardisation of sentencing?
- What action has been taken to establish a reporting mechanism on the implementation of the Government of Croatia's "2007-2015 National Strategy for Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities" and what progress has been made to provide support for independent decision-making by disabled persons?

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- What is the Government of Croatia doing to ensure that persons with disabilities can live independently and be included in the community, including through improved access to the built environment, provision of community-based supports, and access to employment on an equal basis with others?