Albania
Andorra
Armenia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Belgium
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Estonia
Finland
France
Georgia
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Iceland
Ireland
Italy
Latvia
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malta
Moldova
Monaco
Montenegro
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Russia
San Marino
Serbia
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"
Turkey
Ukraine
United Kingdom

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

6th session of the Forum on Minorities Issues

Item 5 : Promotion of constructive interfaith dialogue, consultation and exchange

Statement
by
Ms. Justine Nicollet

On behalf of the Council of Europe

Geneva, 27 November 2013
Promotion of constructive interfaith dialogue, consultation and exchange

The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance recommends States to pursue a regular constructive dialogue with representatives of Muslim communities and encourage debate within the media on their responsibility to avoid perpetuating prejudice. The structures established to permit such dialogue should be reinforced if necessary. ECRI has also recommended information and awareness-raising campaigns vis-à-vis public service employees and the majority population so as to prevent unlawful, discriminatory requests that Muslim women wearing the headscarf either remove it or refrain from entering a public place.

ECRI recommends that national authorities continue their active engagement against antisemitism, with the assistance of the media and civil society, including the [Catholic] Church. It encourages the authorities to undertake full and open consultation with the Jewish community in all issues of concern to them and recommends establishing a system for monitoring antisemitic acts. The authorities should give special attention to paying homage to the memory of the victims of the systematic persecution and extermination of Jews in the Shoah.

ECRI also recommends that states take the necessary measures to ensure teaching about the Holocaust in schools; in consultation with Jewish communities and encourages them to take preventive measures more generally to ensure that antisemitic views do not gain a foothold among youth. ECRI recommended that the Spanish authorities extend the compulsory teaching of the Holocaust to cover also the history, culture and positive contribution of Jews in Spain.

With regard to antisemitism, ECRI recommends that the authorities seek and identify the causes of antisemitism in order to improve their action to prevent and counter this phenomenon.

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1 See ECRI report on Denmark (§ 92).
2 See ECRI report on Italy (§ 153).
3 See ECRI report on France (§ 94).
4 See ECRI report on Poland (§ 129).
6 See ECRI report on Greece (§ 171).
8 See ECRI report on Finland, § 136.
9 See ECRI report on Croatia, § 218.
10 See ECRI report on the Czech Republic (§ 72).
11 See ECRI report on Spain (§ 147).
12 See ECRI report on Belgium (§ 164) and Switzerland (§ 173).