

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO AUSTRIA ADD.1

FINLAND

1) Fight against racism and xenophobia

Question:

- What measures are taken, or what measures does the Government intend to take, to effectively counter racist and xenophobic attitudes and hate speech, particularly their impact on children, and to promote and protect the rights of all persons against racial discrimination and xenophobia?

2) The Roma minority

Question:

- What do the Austrian authorities intend to take to further ensure adequate support to the Roma minority, aiming especially at their integration into the education system and the labour market?

3) Human trafficking

Question:

- What measures are taken, or what measures does the Government intend to take, to cooperate with countries of origin in order to prevent and counter human trafficking, and to ensure that adequate resources are available for the rehabilitation of victims?

NORWAY

- What is the current status of the proposal to amend the Equal Treatment Act to harmonize existing anti-discrimination legislation, with a view to ensure equal protection on all grounds of discrimination for all groups of society?
- How is Austria dealing with allegations of torture and ill-treatment by law-enforcement officials, and what is being done to ensure justice and reparation to victims of such human rights violations?
- Both asylum seekers and persons who have had their asylum application denied and who are awaiting deportation are often in need of legal counsel. What measures are in place to ensure that such legal counsel is available and free of charge? Are there adequate provisions in place to provide institutions and civil-society organisations that can provide such counsel the necessary funding and access to assist such persons?
- Civil society organisations represent a substantial body of expertise in the field of human rights. How does Austria ensure that civil society organisations are involved in human rights related policy development and in the follow-up of the recommendations of the various UN treaty bodies?

SLOVENIA

- During the last ten years, the Austrian Constitutional Court issued a number of decisions concerning bilingual topography and Slovenian as an official language in the province of Carinthia; however, only two of them were implemented. How does the Government intend to ensure the realization of these decisions by the Constitutional Court in accordance with the rule of law?
- Data shows that the Slovenian-language music school in the province of Carinthia receives significantly lower financial support (600 Euros per pupil) than the German-language music school (1,300 Euros per pupil). What measures does the Government intend to undertake to counter such a discriminatory approach?
- The Slovenian minority in the provinces of Carinthia and Styria has been, since 1995, financed with the same nominal sum, which actually means that due to inflation its institutions receive now significantly less support than 15 years ago. In fact, without the additional financial support of Slovenia, their activities would be strongly jeopardized. Why does the Government of Austria continuously decrease the financial support earmarked for the Slovenian minority by not accounting for the negative impact of inflation?
- More than two years have passed since the expiration in November 2008 of the mandate of the Advisory Council for the Slovenian Minority at the federal level. When does the Government plan to set up a new one and will the Slovenian minority have the right to nominate all its members itself?
- What measures does the Government intend to take to remedy the situation whereby the majority of members of the Slovenian minority are denied the right to use the Slovenian language in courts (so far, this is possible only in the courts of Eisenkappel/Železna Kapla, Bleiburg/Pliberk and Ferlach/Borovlje) and, if they insist on using this right, are often treated in a discriminatory manner?