

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO BELGIUM

DENMARK

- How does Belgium address the concern that has been raised regarding the problem of prison overcrowding and the related consequences?
- When does Belgium envisage ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture?
- How does Belgium intend to respond to the recommendations made by i.a. the Human Rights Committee regarding the establishment of a National Human Rights Institution compliant with the Paris Principles?

SWEDEN

- Sweden would like to ask the Government of Belgium what measures it is taking to enhance the conditions for asylum-seeker and other migrants, especially in the closed centers and during expulsion?
- Sweden would also like to ask the Government of Belgium to elaborate on the measures taken to address the overcrowding in prisons and the impact it has had for the conditions of the prisoners? What is the status of the implementation of the “Master Plan for More Humane Prison Facilities”?

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

- We should be grateful if you would provide information on the extent to which civil society was consulted in the preparation of your national report and the extent they will be included in the follow-up.
- Please could you tell us what plans Belgium has to create an independent national human rights institution which conforms fully with the Paris principles?
- What steps does Belgium have to provide safe and secure housing for asylum seekers? We would be grateful to know, as UNHCR has recommended, how Belgium is improving legal assistance to asylum seekers?
- What plans do you have to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment?
- What plans do you have to strengthen efforts to protect children from exploitation by bringing in effective domestic legislation to eliminate child abuse, child pornography and child prostitution?
- Given that there is no comprehensive domestic violence legislation in Belgium what plans do you have to improve protection in this area?

- The UK notes the concerns of the Human Rights Committee regarding the resurgence of anti-Semitic and racist acts, and the increase in Islamophobic remarks and acts. What steps are you taking to address these concerns?