

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION BULLETIN
6/2006

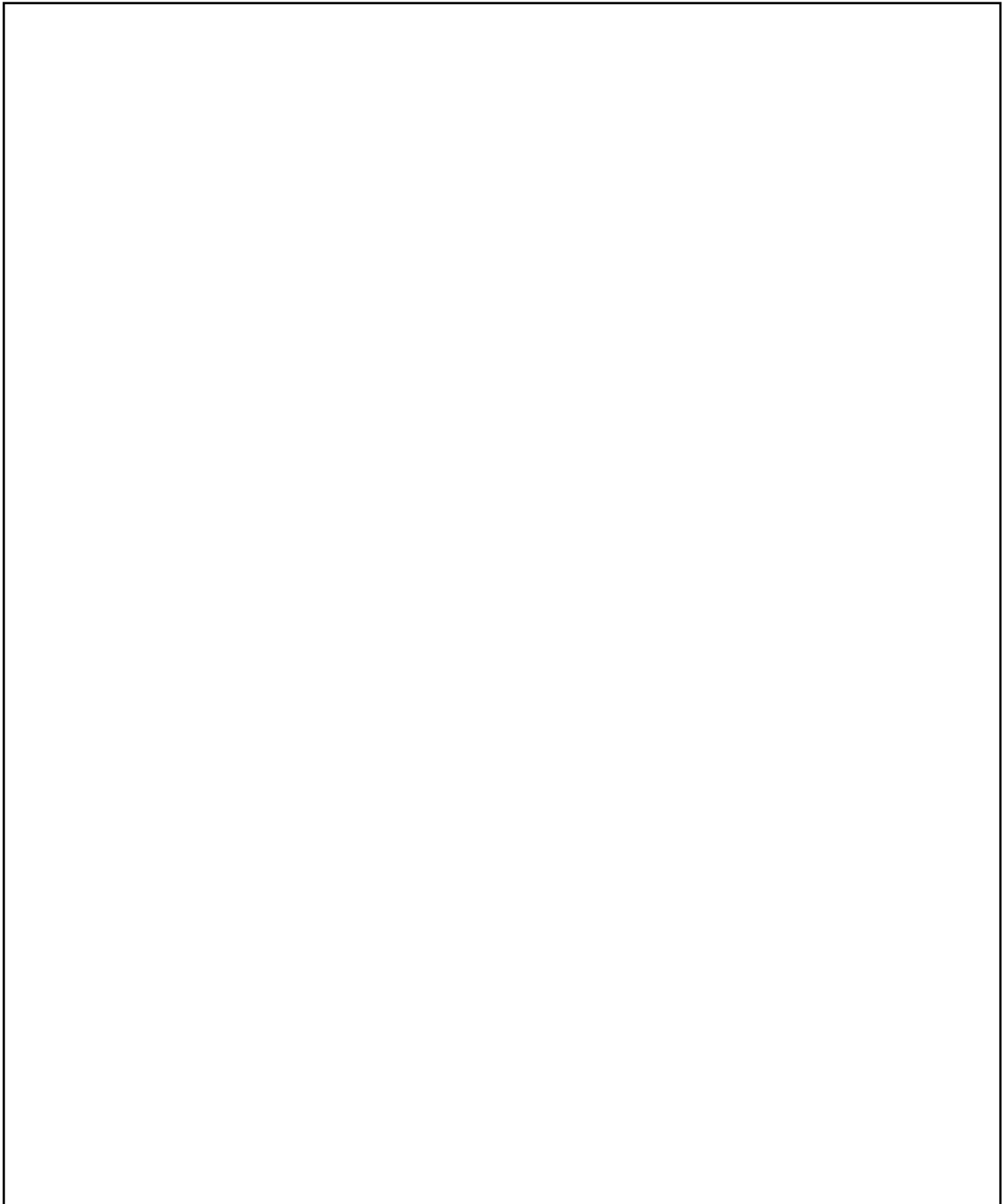
1. THE “POLITICAL HEADLINES”

Bulgarian wins lawsuit against the Plovdiv electricity distributor

The Bulgarian of Turk origin Mehmet Denev won a lawsuit against the Plovdiv electricity distributor for cutting his electricity together with the non-regular payees after he proved that he had paid his bills regularly for four years. The electricity distribution in the largest Roma neighborhood in Plovdiv was largely debated after the Roma families have large debts for electricity.

<http://www.eurorights-bg.org/bg/categories/legal/legal.html>

2. LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS



3. RESEARCH

The report on the state of preparedness for EU membership of Bulgaria welcomes the practical measures taken by Bulgaria to improve the integration of Roma into mainstream society especially in relation to education, housing and healthcare; calls for more attention to the "Action Plan for the Implementation of the Framework Programme for Equal Integration of Roma into the Bulgarian Society 2005-2006"; notes that discrimination problems still face many Roma people and that Roma women are especially vulnerable to trafficking and prostitution; insists that efforts to ensure access to quality education and to overcoming segregation must be reinforced and properly resourced, and that progress will be judged by reference to visible improvements; emphasises, however, that integration is a two-way process, with the Roma themselves recognising the need to adapt.

An amendment to the report recommends the recognition of a Macedonian minority in Bulgaria by approving the registration of OMO-Ilinden, a political party, based on ethnic origin, which contradicts the Bulgarian constitution. In a letter to the members of the Parliament the Bulgarian observers opposed the recommendation as an attempt to influence the independent justice system in Bulgaria.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/omk/sipade3?PUBREF=-//EP//NONSGML+REPORT+A6-2005-0342+0+DOC+WORD+V0//EN&L=EN&LEVEL=1&NAV=S&LSTDOC=Y>

4. NEWS AND EVENTS

30 Pct of the complaints within the Commission for Protection against Discrimination are not relevant as it seems that the discrimination in Bulgaria is lower than the sense of discrimination within people, said commission's chairman Kemal Eyup for the press. A total of 378 complaints were filed with the Commission. The number of complaints about discrimination in the labour market, including on an ethnic basis, grows as it reached 26%.

<http://www.novinar.org/>