

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION BULLETIN
5/2006

1. THE “POLITICAL HEADLINES”

The players of fourth-division amateur football club Rudozem 2005 wished to play with crescent on their jerseys which raised the protest of the citizens of the town of Smolyan. The club's sponsor is The Union for Islam Development and Culture, which filed the complaint against a Smolyan school for its refusal to admit two students with veils in class. The sponsorship is the reason for the team wearing jerseys with crescents and with UIDC logo. If the Commission for Protection from Discrimination rules that the club violates the law the crescents will be removed, the UIDC chairman said.

<http://standartnews.com/en/>

The Labour and Social Policy Minister Mrs Emilia Maslarova dismissed her deputy Mr Yavor Dimitrov for failing to follow his obligations. Dimitrov, who is a member of the Roma minority, was responsible for the demographic policy, for the social investment and for the equal opportunities of men and women. Mr Dimitrov claimed before the press that his dismissal was based on discriminatory motives. He was replaced with Mr Baki Huseinov, who also belongs to the Roma minority.

<http://www.mlsp.government.bg/bg/news/news.asp?newsid=8353&catid=1>

The second Roundtable on Contemporary State Policy to Guarantee Equality and Non-Discrimination was organised on October 20, 2006. The participants presented a National Action Plan against Discrimination which has to be voted by the Council of Ministers by the end of 2006. The action plan aims at improving the knowledge of discrimination and the motives that cause it by researching; strengthening the capacity for fighting discrimination by encouraging information exchange on the measures taken by different institutions; intensifying the sensibility of the society for the importance of the antidiscrimination measures and measures against the unequal treatment.

<http://www.ncedi.government.bg/>

2. LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS

The National Action Plan against Discrimination for 2007 to be adopted by the Council of Ministers by the end of this year, foresees the following legislative changes to be made in 2007: adoption of the Rotterdam Charter: Policing for Multi-ethnic Society; signing of Protocol 12 to the European Convention of Human Rights and of the [Additional Protocol to the Convention on cybercrime, concerning the criminalisation of acts of a racist and xenophobic nature committed through computer systems](#); development of amendments to the Law on the Organisation of the Territory and to the Criminal Code (adding aggravated cases for crimes against the personality, based on among all prejudice of race, ethnicity, religion, etc. <http://www.ncedi.government.bg/>

3. RESEARCH

Police Stops and Ethnic Profiling in Bulgaria

Police Stops and Ethnic Profiling in Bulgaria, published by the Center for the Study of Democracy, examines the use of stops by the Bulgarian police, focusing on the practices of disproportionate stops of members of the Roma ethnic minority. The report also highlights issues related to police abuse during stops as well as crime in Roma communities.

The findings and the report were launched at a public meeting of the National Crime Prevention Commission on September 19, 2006.

<http://www.csd.bg/fileSrc.php?id=1965>

4. NEWS AND EVENTS

The number of ethnic discrimination litigations lodged at the Commission for Protection from Discrimination in 2006 is twice lower than 2005, CPD Chairman Kemal Eyup said in an interview. In 2005 more than half of all litigations were about ethnic discrimination. Although the number of ethnic discrimination litigations remains higher than all other types of litigations their number dropped to a quarter of all.

<http://www.segabg.com/online/sect.asp>

The Bulgarian Government approved Bulgaria's inclusion in the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All and appointed the Labour and Social Policy Minister as a national coordinator which will define the priorities for combating the discrimination and will develop a national strategy for Bulgaria's participation in the campaign. The European Commission allocated 215,250 euro for the project, which is half of its budget.

<http://www.ncedi.government.bg/>