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Permanent Mission
of the Federal Republic of Germany
to the Office of the United Nations and
to the other International Organizations
Geneva

**United Nations Human Rights Council
15th Session of the UPR Working Group**

Geneva, 28 January 2013

**German questions and recommendations to
Montenegro**

Michael Herold

Mister President,

We would like to welcome the delegation of Montenegro and to thank them for the informative National Report. Germany commends Montenegro for the improvements in the human rights situation since the first cycle of the Universal Periodic Review.

Welcoming initial progress concerning Roma inclusion in the field of education, Germany remains concerned about reports that many RAE are not legally registered and do not have any personal documents, which hinders access to their rights. **Germany would be interested to learn more about the “activities expected in terms of addressing the issues that predominantly involve legal status, employment and social integration” of RAE mentioned in the national report.**

Germany is concerned on reports that the LGBT community in Montenegro is faced with a number of problems including a high level of homophobia resulting in many cases of violence and discrimination. **Germany would be interested to learn more about plans of the government to promote and defend the rights of the LGBT community as well as to establish an environment allowing LGBT persons full access to their rights.**

Welcoming progress with regard to the decriminalization of defamation, **Germany would still be interested to learn more about plans to step up efforts to investigate and prosecute cases of violence against journalists (including murder).**

Germany would like to offer the following recommendations to Montenegro:

- 1. to ratify the 1961 Convention on the reduction of Statelessness and to take concrete steps at national level to prevent and eliminate the causes that lead to statelessness,**
- 2. to enact legislation to prohibit explicitly corporal punishment of children in all settings including at home and by members of their family**
- 3. to take all necessary legal and other measures to curb violence against women and to provide support for victims of violence against women, and their children**

I thank you Mister President.

