



Universal Periodical Review of the Republic of Croatia
12 May 2015
Intervention by the delegation of Estonia

Estonia very warmly welcomes the high level delegation of the Republic of Croatia to the UPR's 22th session. We thank Croatia for their work in preparing the report presented earlier and also for the additional information given in the opening speech. We are glad to note that as a result of the extensive dialogue with representatives of civil society and various other stakeholders, Croatia's authorities have prepared a detailed national report, which objectively and truthfully reflects the human rights situation in the country.

Estonia notes with appreciation that Croatia has become a party to nearly all the main international human rights instruments and is fully cooperating with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, as well as with treaty bodies.

Croatia has made progress in almost all human rights areas and implemented most of the recommendations. Estonia commends Croatia for implementing the policy suggestions made during the previous review. We welcome the legislative and institutional steps taken by Croatia. We would like to especially point out some positive developments.

We would like to welcome the entry into force of the Act on the Ombudsman in 2011, and the efforts of the Office of the Ombudsman, which also performs the function of a national preventive mechanism.

As regards improvements in legal acts, Estonia particularly welcomes the adoption of the Asylum Act in 2010 and the adoption of the Anti-discrimination Act in 2012.

Estonia commends Croatia for the adoption of the National Programme for Protection and Promotion of Human Rights (2013-2016).

Furthermore, we acknowledge Croatia's continued endeavours to promote gender equality and stop discrimination against women. Estonia welcomes the adoption of the National Policy for Gender Equality and the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence added by the National Strategy of Protection against Family Violence 2011-2016.

Finally, as a keen defender of freedom of expression online/offline, including media freedom, we echo the need to protect journalists and media workers from criminal liability in accordance with international standards.

Estonia would like to **recommend** to the Government of Croatia:

- to investigate all unresolved cases of missing persons and bring perpetrators to justice
- to decriminalizing defamation and place it in a civil code

We would like to wish the delegation of Croatia a successful review meeting. Thank you!