



**Statement by Sweden in the interactive dialogue on
Croatia**

*Delivered by Counsellor Ms Anna Jakenberg Brinck,
Geneva, May 12, 2015.*

Mr President,

Sweden welcomes the delegation from Croatia to the UPR.

Sweden notes that the integration of minorities in the Croatian society has proven to be challenging, especially for the Serb and the Roma minorities.

Sweden recommends Croatia to fully recognize the situation of the minority groups and take ample action in order to meet these challenges, including combatting discrimination against minority groups, not least the Serb and Roma minorities.

Croatia belongs to the states receiving the lowest number of asylum seekers in the EU. From 2004 until the end of 2014, 4770 persons sought asylum in Croatia and the status of asylum was granted to only 133 persons.

Sweden recommends Croatia to review its asylum procedures to increase the efficiency of the asylum granting processes and to ensure the protection of unaccompanied migrant children. Sweden also recommends to further sensitize the Croatian public to this question, in order to facilitate the integration of asylum seekers. Such measures would also result in better sharing of responsibilities at EU-level with respect to refugees and asylum seekers.

We note positively the recent Law on Vocational Rehabilitation aiming at encouraging employers to hire and create jobs for persons with disabilities.

Sweden recommends Croatia to monitor the implementation and ensure compliance with the Law on Vocational Rehabilitation to make sure that persons with disabilities are not subject to discrimination and have equal opportunities to find employment.