

MR. IVAN PIPERKOV  
AMBASSADOR

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**UPR – BELGIUM – 20 January 2016**

**STATEMENT by BULGARIA**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

Bulgaria warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of Belgium and thanks for the comprehensive national report.

We would like to commend Belgium for demonstrating strong commitment to the UPR process and for the overall efforts to thoroughly implement the 88 recommendations from the first UPR cycle.

Bulgaria notes positively the fact that combating racism, extremism and xenophobia remains a priority for Belgium.

Our delegation seizes this opportunity to make the following recommendations to the delegation of Belgium:

1. To establish a National Human Rights Institution that is fully compliant with the Paris Principles.
2. To continue giving priority attention to domestic and gender-based violence, in particular rape and other crimes of sexual violence, at all relevant levels, including such caused by police and the judiciary.
3. To ensure that all persons deprived of liberty are held in humane conditions, including in line with the UN Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners and the Standard Minimum Rules for the treatment of prisoners.

Thank you!