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**UPR38/Belgium**

**Statement by Slovakia**

5 May 2021

President,

Slovakia commends Belgium’s strong commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights at national level and at international fora.

We highly value Belgium’s active cooperation with UN human rights mechanisms and efforts to address the recommendations from last UPR cycle such as conditions in prison including the issue of overcrowding.

Slovakia appreciates the establishment of Federal Institute for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights.

Slovakia welcomes also the existence of several external independent mechanisms for the oversight of the police services.

In this connection, Slovakia **recommends** that all cases of police abuse and brutality are promptly and thoroughly investigated and all perpetrators of crimes are held accountable.

Slovakia also **recommends** that a legislation is adopted to prohibit the manifestation of sympathies and the use of symbols of extremist ideologies.

Finally, Slovakia **recommends** that systemic measures in the sphere of education and training are adopted with the aim to suppress “hate speech”.

Thank you.