



EUROPEAN UNION  
Delegation of the European Union to the Council of Europe

## **Weekly Media Report of developments related to the Council of Europe** **12 - 16 October 2015**

The Weekly Media Report gives an overview of recent news in international media. Please note that the Report does not constitute a formal communication, does not represent the official position of the Delegation and does not commit the European Union in any way.

Ce rapport donne un aperçu de nouvelles récentes dans les médias internationaux. Ce rapport n'est pas une communication formelle, ne représente pas la position officielle de la Délégation et n'engage en aucun cas l'Union Européenne.

### **ECHR**

#### **[ECHR rules Turk had right to deny Armenian "genocide"](#)**

*15/10 – DW/ Germany*

The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) has sided with a Turkish citizen's right to free speech in denying the mass killing of Armenians during World War I constituted "genocide." The freedom of speech case arose after Dogu Perincek, a longtime Turkish nationalist leftist and head of the Patriotic Party, was convicted by a Swiss court in 2007 and ordered to pay fines after he called the Armenian genocide a "great international lie" developed by the "imperialist" enemies of Turkey in a number of speeches in Switzerland in 2005.

### **Freedom of expression**

#### **[Council of Europe Conference on Freedom of Expression to Be Held in Strasbourg](#)**

*13/10 - Independent / Macedonia*

Some 300 participants in a conference in Strasbourg on 13-14 October, will assess serious ramifications to free expression from such recent events as the brutal assault against Charlie Hebdo journalists in Paris in January, COE informs. Attorney at Law of Charlie Hebdo, Richard Malka, for example, will count among participants, including European Court of Human Rights judges, national judges, journalists and representatives from media freedom organizations, governments and international organizations.



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## CommHR

### [European human rights watchdog slams Roma segregation in Slovakia, Czech Republic](#)

*13/10 – Reuters / International*

Europe's human rights watchdog slammed Slovakia and the Czech Republic on Wednesday for lack of progress in eliminating segregation of Roma children in schools and hate speech in political discourse directed at Europe's poorest minority. In a report on Slovakia, the Council of Europe's Human Rights Commissioner, Nils Muiznieks, criticized what he called chronic, pervasive segregation of Roma children in schools and their high drop-out rates. "Although Slovakia's anti-discrimination framework is comprehensive, it provides a differing degree of protection for various vulnerable social groups and must be reformed to close all protection gaps," Muiznieks said.

## ECRI

### [New report critical of Roma education](#)

*13/10 – Prague Post / Czech Republic*

European group says Czechs have made some progress, but areas of concern exist. In a report published today on the Czech Republic, the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), while acknowledging progress in a number of areas, expresses serious concern over the lack of progress in eradicating segregation of Roma children in schools and the prevalence of anti-Roma hate speech in political discourse. "The continued discrimination of Roma, in particular of Roma children, is a serious concern. I call on the Czech Republic to make a change and act upon our experts' recommendations," Council of Europe Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland said in a press release.

## GRETA

### [Austria 'must help child victims of trafficking'](#)

*14/10/2015 - The Local / Austria*

The Council of Europe has urged Austria to step up the fight against child trafficking. A report issued on Monday said that Austria had made progress in the fight against human trafficking but that more needed to be done to protect children. Ahead of the EU Anti-Trafficking Day on October 18th, the report also said Austria must work to make sure that victims of human trafficking are not prosecuted if they have been forced to break the law by their traffickers. The report referred to cases where victims had been jailed, despite evidence that they had been pressured into breaking the law.



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### [La Suisse en progrès mais peut encore mieux faire, selon un rapport](#)

*15/10/2015 - SDA - ATS / Switzerland*

Le Groupe d'experts sur la lutte contre la traite des êtres humains (GRETA) du Conseil de l'Europe salue les mesures prises par la Suisse dans ce domaine. Mais Berne peut encore mieux faire, notamment dans l'identification des victimes et en matière de lutte contre la traite d'enfants. Le GRETA salue notamment l'adoption par la Suisse de dispositions législatives dans le domaine, indique mercredi l'Office fédéral de la police fedpol dans un communiqué, suite à la publication du premier rapport du groupe d'experts. De même, la création d'un Service de coordination contre la traite d'êtres humains et le trafic de migrants (SCOTT), rattaché à fedpol, est un progrès.

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