Council of Europe contribution for the 27th UPR session (April-May 2017) regarding Finland

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Prevention of torture (CPT)

The 'European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment' organises country visits in order to visit places of detention to assess how persons deprived of their liberty are treated. After each visit, the CPT sends a detailed report to the State concerned. This report includes the CPT's findings, and its recommendations, comments and requests for information.

A delegation of the Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) carried out their *fifth periodical visit to Finland* from 22 September to 2 October 2014. The visit provided an opportunity to assess the progress since the Committee's 2008 visit. The *preliminary observations* made by the CPT delegation at the end of the 2014 visit were published on *31 October 2014.* The *CPT report* to the Finnish Government based on that visit was released on *20 August 2015*. Despite on-going efforts in a number of areas, the CPT was concerned by the lack of sufficient progress in the implementation of many of its long-standing recommendations.

The report addressed issues relating to police establishments, in particular material conditions, and the Committee underlined that none of the police establishments visited, including Pasila "police prison", offered conditions suitable for holding persons in excess of the police custody period (i.e. 96 hours). There was insufficient access to natural light in cells, no possibility of genuine daily outdoor exercise, no activities and no proper health-care coverage. The Committee re-iterated its long-standing recommendation regarding eliminating the practice of holding remand prisoners in police cells. Further, it noted that delays in notification of custody remained widespread, especially for apprehended foreign nationals without residence in Finland.

The report outlined in detail various issues related to prisons, in particular the phenomenon of inter-prisoner violence and intimidation as well as the situation of prisoners held in high security and closed units. The CPT has recommended that a suitable programme of purposeful activities be provided to prisoners held in conditions of high security or segregated by court order. Overall, the Committee noted that material conditions for the mainstream prison population were good in the prisons visited. That said, the delegation observed that there were still many cells without a toilet at Helsinki and Kerava Prisons. The CPT called upon the Finnish authorities to completely eliminate the "slopping out" practice in prisons. Regarding health-care services in prisons, the CPT reiterated its assessment from the 2008 visit that there is an insufficient doctors' presence in the prisons visited and recommended that this be increased.

Further, the report examined certain issues regarding places of detention of foreign nationals. Overall the Committee noted that treatment, living conditions and activities offered at the Metsälä Detention Unit were generally adequate. As regards the Konnunsuo detention facility, scheduled to open in late 2014, the Committee noted that the environment remained carceral and had very limited space envisaged for association and recommended that changes be made in this regard. Moreover, the Committee stressed that once the new facility had opened, the practice of holding persons detained under the Aliens Act in police establishments should be finally stopped.

The CPT's delegation also visited Niuvanniemi Hospital, and focused on the safeguards governing involuntary psychiatric hospitalisation and treatment. The Committee found the living conditions, treatment, activities and staffing to be generally good. As regards safeguards, the CPT remained concerned by the very limited progress in addressing its long-standing recommendations aimed at improving the legislative framework, and for amendments to be made to provide for an obligatory independent expert psychiatric opinion in the context of involuntary hospitalisation and the review of such measure. The Committee was also concerned by the inefficiency of judicial reviews of involuntary hospitalisation measures. It again called on the Finnish authorities to ensure that there is a meaningful and expedient court review of the measure of involuntary hospitalisation and to ensure that psychiatric patients have an effective right to be heard in person by the judge during the involuntary hospitalisation procedure. The Finnish Government's *response to paragraph 26* of the report was published on 20 August 2015, and the *full response* to the CPT report was released on *6 October 2015.*

High level talks took place in Helsinki on 13 June 2016 between a CPT delegation and the Finnish Minister of Justice and Employment, and several senior officials from the Ministry of Justice, the Criminal Sanctions Agency, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health and National Institute of Health and Welfare to discuss the implementation of the CPT's long-standing recommendations aiming at stopping the practice of holding remand prisoners in police establishments ("police prisons") and equipping all prison cells with toilets. The talks were also an opportunity to learn about other developments since the CPT's last visit to Finland, including the recent transfer of the responsibility for prison health-care service from the Ministry of Justice to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. The talks were open, detailed and constructive, and all participants expressed the wish to reinforce co-operation on matters falling within the CPT's mandate.

Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights

The Commissioner for Human Rights is an independent and impartial non-judicial institution established by the Council of Europe to promote awareness of and respect for human rights in the 47 Council of Europe member States.

The Commissioner's most recent visit to Finland was from 11 to 13 June 2012, where he held discussions with the Finnish authorities and civil society representatives concerning systematic work for implementing human rights, non-discrimination and reform of equal treatment legislation, and the human rights of the indigenous Sámi people. In his *report* following the 2012 visit, the Commissioner welcomed the new National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights, but pointed out that it lacked measures for human rights education. The Commissioner was concerned that a gender pay gap of 17.9% still remained, and that violence against women continued to be a serious problem. Commissioner Muižnieks was particularly concerned about racist hate speech, also coming from certain politicians, and the extreme marginalisation of young Somali persons. He stressed that further efforts were needed to address discrimination experienced by Roma, Russian-speakers and Somalis who faced considerable obstacles in many fields of life, including employment. While welcoming the Finnish plan to deinstitutionalise persons with intellectual disabilities, the

Commissioner recommended the prompt ratification of the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities and the involvement of disabled people in its implementing and monitoring. The Commissioner also urged Finland to recognise Sámi rights to land and to reindeer herding in the traditional manner, and to ratify the International Labour Organization Convention No. 169 concerning indigenous peoples.

Fight against racism and intolerance (ECRI)

The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) is a human rights body of the Council of Europe, composed of independent experts, which monitors problems of racism, xenophobia, antisemitism, intolerance and discrimination on grounds such as "race", national/ethnic origin, colour, citizenship, religion and language. It prepares reports and issues recommendations to member States, in which its findings, along with recommendations are published. These reports are drawn up after a contact visit to the country in question and a confidential dialogue with the national authorities. The country monitoring takes place in five-year cycles. As part of the fourth round of ECRI's monitoring work, a new process of interim follow-up has been introduced with respect to a small number of specific recommendations made in each of ECRI's country reports.

ECRI's *fourth monitoring cycle report* on Finland was adopted on 21 March 2013 and published on 9 July 2013, and covers the situation in Finland up to 22 June 2012. ECRI welcomes the progress made since the 2007 report. The Finnish Criminal Code was amended in June 2011 to improve the provision that it is an aggravating circumstance to perpetrate an offence motivated, inter alia, by race, colour, ethnic or national origin, religion or beliefs. In addition, since 2011 anyone who makes publicly available or disseminates information, opinions or other material in which a given group is threatened, defamed or insulted on the ground, inter alia, of its race, colour, ethnic or national origin, religion or beliefs or any other similar ground will be liable to a fine or a prison sentence of not more than two years. Under the Criminal Code a website operator is also liable for any racist material posted on the site if it fails to remove this material while being aware of its content.

In 2008, the Ministry of the Interior established a Discrimination Monitoring Group to gather information on the efforts to combat discrimination against various population groups. In December 2009, the national policy on Roma was published including measures on the education, training, and culture of Roma, and promoting equal treatment and access. The Ministry of the Interior has appointed a Group of Experts on Somali Issues with terms of reference from 18 April 2011 to 31 December 2012 tasked with promoting the integration of the Somali community.

Despite the progress achieved, some issues continue to give rise to concern. Finland has not yet ratified ILO Convention No. 169 on Tribal and Indigenous Peoples in Independent Countries, although it informed ECRI of its intention to do so during the term of the current government. The Discrimination Monitoring Group does not monitor discrimination on grounds of colour, nationality or language. The National Discrimination Tribunal is not empowered to award compensation to victims of discrimination, which discourages them from lodging complaints with it, nor is this

tribunal authorised to deal with cases of discrimination in employment or immigration matters. The Ombudsman for Minorities lacks the human and financial resources needed to duly perform her tasks and only has jurisdiction to deal with cases of discrimination on the ground of ethnic origin. The majority population's knowledge about the Sámi remains inadequate. Roma continue to suffer discrimination and racism in various fields, including education, employment and housing. Somalis are the least well-integrated group in the country and are the victims of racism, including racist violence, and of discrimination, inter alia, in employment. Russian-speakers are also victims of discrimination in the field of employment. The Aliens' Act contains discriminatory provisions, in particular Section 130, which considerably increases the risk of racial profiling of visible minorities.

Numerous *recommendations* to address these concerns were made in the 2013 report, three of which were subject to an interim follow-up within two years. The *interim report* reviewing the Implementation of ECRI's recommendations was adopted on 17 March 2016 and published 7 June 2016, covering the actions of Finland up to 12 October 2015.

ECRI considers the recommendation to extend the Ombudsman for Minorities' field of activity, open local and regional branch offices, and be provided with the requisite human and financial resources, partially implemented. The introduction of the new Non-discrimination Act (1325/2014) that entered into force on 1 January 2015 resulted in the replacement of the Ombudsman for Minorities by a Non-discrimination Ombudsman with broader terms of reference. The financial and human resources of the new Ombudsman were increased, compared to the Ombudsman for Minorities, but it remains to be seen if they are sufficient given the broader mandate of the new institution. The new Ombudsman does, for the time being, not have any local or regional offices.

ECRI considers the recommendation that the authorities extend the scope of the National Discrimination Tribunal's mandate to enable it to award damages to victims, to give it a role in immigration matters, and to enable it to also address cases of multiple discrimination, partially implemented. The National Discrimination Tribunal has been transformed into the National Non-Discrimination and Equality Tribunal that can look into immigration issues from a non-discrimination angle and address multiple cases of discrimination; however, it cannot award compensation to victims.

Finally, ECRI considers that the recommendation that the authorities improve measures taken to ensure monitoring of racist acts in order to establish how these are dealt with by the competent authorities, fully implemented, and trust that the Finish authorities will continue and, if necessary, scale up these activities.

Protection of minorities

Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

The monitoring procedure for this convention requires each state party to submit a report within one year following the entry into force of the Framework Convention and additional reports every five

subsequent years. State reports are examined by the Advisory Committee, a body composed of 18 independent experts responsible for adopting country-specific opinions. These opinions, on which States Parties have an opportunity to comment, are meant to advise the Committee of Ministers in the preparation of its resolutions, containing conclusions and recommendations to the State concerned.

The *Committee of Ministers Resolution* on the implementation of the Framework Convention by Finland in respect of the *third monitoring cycle* was adopted on 1 February 2012.The Committee of Ministers concludes that Finland has maintained its constructive attitude towards the Framework Convention and its monitoring system, and has followed an overall inclusive and pragmatic approach with regards to the personal scope of application. The Committee of Minsters also raises several issues of concern, and recommends immediate action is taken on the following issues;

- in view of the government's intention to ratify ILO Convention No. 169, unblock the current stalemate and re-establish a constructive dialogue with the Sami Parliament to bring a solution to the legal uncertainty over land rights in the Sami Homeland;
- continue taking resolute measures, in consultation with the Sami Parliament, to prevent the further disappearance of the Sami languages from public and ensure that the Sami have improved access to public services in the Sami languages;
- take appropriate measures to ensure that the various consultation structures and mechanisms for persons belonging to national minorities are complemented and reorganised to provide clear communication channels and improve possibilities for representatives to have a real impact on the decision-making process.

The *fourth report* submitted by Finland was received on 27 January 2015, and covers in great detail issues relating mostly to the Sámi requiring immediate measures, as well as other measures for the development of the implementation of the framework convention. The Advisory Committee's opinion on the report was adopted in February 2016 and is currently restricted.

European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

The Charter's monitoring procedure is based on state reports, as each State Party is required to present its first report within the year following the entry into force of the Charter with respect to the Party concerned. The subsequent reports are presented at three-yearly intervals. A committee of independent experts examines the state's periodical report and addresses an evaluation report to the Committee of Ministers, including proposals for recommendations.

Finland submitted its 4th periodical *report* on 30 September 2010. Subsequently, the Committee of Experts' *evaluation report* was adopted on 21 September 2011 and the Committee of Ministers' *Recommendation* was adopted on 14 March 2012.

The Committee of Ministers recommends that the Finnish authorities, as a matter of priority, further strengthen education in Sámi, notably through the development of a structured policy and a long-term financing scheme; take urgent measures to protect and promote Inari and Skolt Sámi, which are particularly endangered languages, in particular by means of the provision of language nests on a permanent basis; take further measures to ensure the accessibility of social and health care in

Swedish and Sámi; develop and implement innovative strategies for the training of Romani teachers, extend the production of teaching materials in Romani and increase the provision of teaching of Romani; and take measures to increase awareness and tolerance vis-à-vis the regional or minority languages of Finland, both in the general curriculum at all stages of education and in the media.

The 5th periodical report is overdue since 1 March 2014

Action against trafficking in human beings (GRETA)

The 'Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings' (GRETA) carries out visits and publishes country reports evaluating legislative and other measures taken by Parties to give effect to the provisions of the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (CETS No. 197). GRETA evaluates the implementation of the Convention following a procedure divided into rounds. At the beginning of each round, GRETA selects the specific provisions on which the evaluation procedure is based.

The first Evaluation Round in respect of Finland was initiated in 2013, and has produced *3 documents*:

- *GRETA's Report and Government's Comments*, published on 4 June 2015
- *Recommendation of the Committee of the Parties*, adopted on 15 June 2015
- *Government's Reply to GRETA's Questionnaire*, published on 13 June 2014

GRETA's first evaluation round *report* concerning the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings by Finland was adopted 20 March 2015 and published 4 June 2015. The report acknowledges that the Finnish authorities have taken a number of important steps to develop the legal and policy framework for action against trafficking in human beings, but believes the Finnish authorities can take further action.

GRETA welcomes the June 2014 appointment of a National Anti-Trafficking Co-ordinator, however GRETA urges the Finnish authorities to adopt as a matter of priority a new or updated action plan against the trafficking in human beings. GRETA also recommends that the effectiveness of recent awareness campaigns be assessed, that the authorities make further efforts to discourage demand resulting in labour exploitation, and develop the aspect of prevention through social and economic empowerment measures.

At the time of GRETA's visit, the process of identifying a victim of trafficking was not regulated and there was no National Referral Mechanism providing a framework for sharing information between public bodies and NGOs. GRETA urges the Finnish authorities to improve victim identification procedures by introducing a National Referral Mechanism and guaranteeing that in practice identification is dissociated from the victim's cooperation in the investigation.

GRETA welcomes the provision in Finnish law for a recovery or reflection period longer than the minimum of 30 days envisaged in the Convention, nevertheless, GRETA urges the Finnish authorities to ensure all possible victims are offered a reflection or recovery period and all measure of protection and assistance, regardless of the victim's willingness to cooperate with the police. Furthermore, GRETA urges the Finnish authorities to adopt additional measures to facilitate and guarantee access to compensation for all victims of trafficking, and to include all victims of trafficking in the scope of the Act on Compensation for Crime Damage, regardless of their residence status.

Despite several successful over the past two years the total number of convictions for human trafficking in Finland is low in relation to the number of victims in the assistance system and the number of human trafficking cases registered by the police. GRETA urges the Finnish authorities to ensure that human trafficking offences for all types of exploitation are proactively investigated and prosecuted promptly by building further the capacity and specialisation of police officers, prosecutors and judges. During these investigations, the Finnish authorities should take appropriate measures to ensure the effective protection of victims and to prevent their intimidation during and after court proceedings.

The first evaluation round will conclude with the transmission of the Authorities' reply to the Committee of the Parties' Recommendation, which should be submitted by 15 June 2017.

Preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence

The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and Combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention, CETS No. 210) provides for two types of monitoring procedures: a country-by-country evaluation procedure and a special inquiry procedure in exceptional cases where action is required to prevent a serious, massive or persistent pattern of any acts of violence covered by the Convention. GREVIO, the Group of Experts on Action against violence against women and domestic violence, is the independent body responsible for monitoring the implementation of CETS No. 210. GREVIO launched its first evaluation procedure in spring 2016, after adopting a questionnaire on legislative and other measures giving effect to the Istanbul Convention.

Finland ratified the Istanbul Convention on 17 April 2015 with one *reservation*. As a state party to the Convention, it is subject to the evaluation procedure which will be initiated in relation to Finland in early 2018.

Fight against corruption (GRECO)

The 'Group of States against Corruption' (GRECO) monitors all its members through a "horizontal" evaluation procedure within thematic evaluation rounds. The evaluation reports contain recommendations aimed at furthering the necessary legislative, institutional and practical reforms.

Subsequently, the implementation of those recommendations is examined in the framework of a "compliance procedure", assessing whether they have been implemented satisfactorily, partly or have not been implemented 18 months after the adoption of the evaluation report.

The fourth *GRECO report* concerning the state of corruption in Finland, based on the evaluation visit from 4 to 8 June 2012, was adopted on 22 March 2013 and published on 27 March 2013. It examined the themes of "corruption prevention in respect of members of parliament, judges and prosecutors".

The report noted that Finland is widely regarded as being one of the least corrupt countries in Europe, and that perceptions of corruption among parliamentarians, judges and prosecutors are relatively low. Despite a long tradition of limited regulation in this area, Finland also has a good record of implementing anti-corruption measures suggested by GRECO itself.

GRECO nevertheless stressed that the authorities should not underestimate the risks of corruption resulting from conflicts of interest. It recommended drawing up a Code of Conduct for parliamentarians, as well as clarify exactly what is meant by "conflict of interest" and tightening up rules on gifts and the disclosure of outside links.

GRECO also recommended that the recently-adopted Ethical Principles for Judges should be widely disseminated, and that closer attention should be paid to judges' additional activities, notably arbitration work, to maintain public confidence. Prosecutors also need a comprehensive set of ethical standards, backed up by specialised training and possibly also specific legislation.

A *compliance report* assessing the extent to which the eight recommendations included in the report have been implemented was adopted on 27 March 2015 and published on 1 April 2015. GRECO concludes that Finland has implemented satisfactorily or dealt with in a satisfactory manner four of the eight recommendations contained in the Fourth Round Evaluation Report. The remaining recommendations have been partly implemented.

See also: GRECO Press Release Revised Questionnaire on Corruption Prevention in respect of Members or Parliament, Judges and Prosecutors.

Execution of judgments and decisions of the European Court of Human Rights

Statistical data

At 31 December 2015, there were 42 (41 at 31.12.2014) cases against Finland pending before the Committee of Ministers for supervision of their execution. 13 of these cases were "leading cases" (13 at 31.12.2014), i.e. raising a new structural /general problem and requiring the adoption of general measures, the other cases being "repetitive cases" (including a number of friendly settlements) concerning issues already raised before the European Court of Human Rights.

In 2015, the CM was seized by 4 new cases (6 in 2014) against Finland of which no leading cases (2 in 2014) and the sums awarded in 2015 as just satisfaction amounted to € 54.442 (€ 37.783 at 31.12.2014).

In 2015, 3 cases (7 in 2014) were closed by the adoption of a Final Resolution, of which no leading (none in 2014).

For a summary of main achievements in the recent years see the *Committee of Ministers' annual reports*, as well as the *9th Annual Report of the Committee of Ministers*.

Main cases /groups of cases pending before the Committee of Ministers for supervision of execution under enhanced procedure

Currently, there are no cases against Finland under the enhanced supervision procedure pending before the Committee of Ministers for supervision of execution.

Other cases /groups of cases pending before the Committee of Ministers for supervision of execution

The other cases pending before the Committee of Ministers for supervision of execution are under the standard supervision procedure and refer to:

- breach of the right to a fair trial (*Pietilainen*, 13566/06)
- excessive length of administrative proceedings and lack of an effective remedy (*Vilho Eskelinen and Others* 63235/00; *Ekholm*, 68050/01)
- unjustified confinement in psychiatric institutions (*X.*, 34806/04)
- breach of the right not to be punished twice (*Ruotsalainen*, 13079/03; *Nykanen*, 11828/11)
- breach of the right to freedom of expression on account of criminal or civil convictions for defamation or invading the privacy (*Eerikainen* 3514/02)
- custody rights (*C.*, 18249)
- various breaches leading to unfairness of criminal proceedings (*V.*, 40412/98; *A.S.* 40156/07)
- various breaches of the right to private life (*Petri Sallinen and Others*, 50882/99; *Gronmark*, 17038/04; *Lindstrom and Masseli,* 24630/10).

A compilation of statistics can be found in the *8th Annual Report* (2014) on Supervision of the Execution of Judgments and Decisions of the European Court of Human Rights, as well as in the recently published *9th report* (2015).

8th report on execution of judgeme

9th report on execution of judgeme

Social and economic rights: European Social Charter and European Committee of Social Rights

The honouring of commitments entered into by the States Parties to the ***European Social Charter*** is subject to the monitoring of the **European Committee of Social Rights** (ECSR). This body monitors compliance under the two existing monitoring mechanisms: through collective complaints, lodged by the social partners and other non-governmental organisations (collective complaints procedure); through national reports drawn up by States Parties (reporting system).

The aim pursued with the introduction, in 1995, of the **collective complaints procedure** was to increase the effectiveness, speed and impact of the implementation of the Charter. In this view, this

procedure has strengthened the role of the social partners and non-governmental organisations by enabling them to directly apply to the ECSR for rulings on possible non-implementation of the Charter in the countries concerned, namely those States which have accepted its provisions and the procedure. The *decisions* adopted by ECSR in the framework of this monitoring mechanism can be consulted using *the European Social Charter Database - HUDOC Charter*.

In the framework of the **reporting system**, following a decision taken by the Committee of Ministers in 2006, the provisions of the Charter have been divided into four thematic groups. States present a report on the provisions relating to one of the four thematic groups on an annual basis. Consequently each provision of the Charter is reported on once every four years. Following a decision taken by the Committee of Ministers in April 2014, States having accepted the collective complaints procedure are required, in alternation with the abovementioned report, to provide a simplified report on the measures taken to implement the decisions of the Committee adopted in collective complaints concerning their country. The alternation of reports is rotated periodically to ensure coverage of the four thematic groups. The decisions adopted by ECSR in the framework of the reporting system, called *conclusions*, are published every year. They can be consulted using the *European Social Charter Database - HUDOC Charter*.

Finland ratified the 1961 European Social Charter (ETS N° 035) and the Additional Protocol to the 1961 Charter (ETS N° 128) on 29/04/1991. It ratified the Amending Protocol to the 1961 Charter on 18/08/1994 (ETS N° 142). It ratified the Revised European Social Charter (ETS N° 163) on 21/06/2002, accepting 88 of its 98 paragraphs. It ratified the Additional Protocol providing for a system of Collective Complaints (EST N° 158) on 17/07/1998. Finland has made a declaration enabling national NGOs to submit collective complaints.

In the **2013 Conclusions concerning Thematic Group 2 "Health, social security and social protection),** over the period 2008-2011, ECSR referred to 4 situations of non-conformity with the right to social security (Articles 12§§1, 12§4), the right to social and medical assistance (Article 13§1), and the right of the elderly persons to social protection (Article 23). In respect of Article 13§4, ECSR requested further information in order to assess the situation. It consequently asked the Government to comply with its obligation to provide this information in its next report on the article in question.

In the **2014 Conclusions concerning Thematic Group 3 "Labour rights"** over the period 2009-2012, ECSR referred to 7 situations of non-conformity with the right to just condition of work (Articles 2§§1 and 2§5), the right to a fair remuneration (Articles 4§§2, 4§3 and 4§5), the right to dignity in the workplace – moral harassment (Article 26§2), and the right of workers' representatives to protection in the undertaking and facilities to be accorded to them (Article 28). In respect of the other 3 situations related to Articles 2§4, 6§4, 22, ECSR needs further information in order to examine the situation. ECSR considered that the absence of the information requested amounts to a breach of the reporting obligation entered into by Finland under the Charter. It requested the Government to remedy that situation by providing this information in the next report.

In the **2015 Conclusions concerning the follow-up given to the decisions of ECSR relating to the collective complaints, as well as the information required by ECSR in the framework of Conclusions**

2013 relating to Thematic group 2 (Articles 3, 11, 12, 13, 14, 23 and 30 on the Revised Charter), in the event of non-conformity for lack of information, no situations of non-conformity were noted.

The ***11th national report*** **submitted by the Finnish Government on 6 November 2015** in the framework of the reporting system concerns the accepted provisions relating to **Thematic Group 1 "Employment, training and equal opportunities"** (Articles 1, 9, 0, 15, 18, 20, 24, and 25), in addition to the **information required by ECSR in the framework of Conclusions 2014 relating to thematic group 3 "Labour rights" (Articles 2, 4, 5, 6, 26, 28 and 29 of the Revised Charter),** in the event of non-conformity for lack of information. ECSR Conclusions with respect to these provisions will be published in January 2017.

Under the collective complaints procedure, there are currently 3 separate complaints brought by the Finnish Society of Social Rights against Finland under examination (Complaints Nos. *106/2014*, *107/2014* and *108/2014*). There were 2 complaints that were inadmissible or where the ECSR has found no violation, 1 complaint where the ECSR has found a violation, which has been remedied, 2 complaints where the ECSR has found a violation and where progress has been made but not yet examined by the ECSR, and 1 complain were the ECSR has found a violation, which has not yet been remedied.
Finland and the European Social Charter (*country factsheet*, document in progress)

Further information on the treaty system of the European Social Charter

Venice Commission

The European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) is the Council of Europe's advisory body on constitutional matters. It provides States and international organisations working with it (EU, OSCE/ODIHR) with legal advice in the form of opinions.

There have been no matters for opinion regarding Finland since the 2008 adoption of the Commission's *Opinion on the Constitution of Finland*.