Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Doc. 15399
10 November 2021

Guaranteeing non-discrimination and equal treatment of citizens of the Republic of North Macedonia with Bulgarian self-identification

Written question No. 770 to the Committee of Ministers
by Mr Dimitar GARDEV, Bulgaria, Members not belonging to a Political Group

During the September 2021 part-session of the Parliamentary Assembly, the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of North Macedonia, Mr Nikola Dimitrov, answering a question on the numerous cases of pressure, harassment, intimidation, hate crimes, and hate speech against citizens of the Republic of North Macedonia with Bulgarian self-identification, in the media, by politicians and representatives of institutions, declared before the members of the Assembly that there had not been a single case of discrimination and of hate speech against Bulgarians.

Regrettably, during the October 2021 local elections, discrimination and hate speech against local Bulgarians continued to be widely employed for political purposes in the Republic of North Macedonia. A prominent example was the campaign against the candidate of VMRO-DPMNE for mayor of Skopje, Ms Danela Arsovska, who was harshly attacked and blamed for holding Bulgarian citizenship by officials and party representatives of the ruling SDSM notably, among others.

Mr Gardev

To ask the Committee of Ministers:

What measures and actions will it take to guarantee the elimination of discrimination and hate speech against Bulgarians in the Republic of North Macedonia?