

Right of Reply Exercised

Response of the Czech Republic to Amnesty International

concerning incorporation of “hate crimes” into the national legislation

at the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

Working Session 2: Tolerance and non-discrimination II - Review of the implementation of commitments on promotion of mutual respect and understanding,

Tuesday 24 September 2013

I am using the right of reply in response to the statement by Amnesty International.

Firstly, I cannot agree with the allegation that the so called “hate crimes” are not properly incorporated into the Czech law. The Czech national legislation, based on international human rights standards, provides a solid basis for effective persecution of racism, xenophobia, discrimination and related intolerance, including hate crimes. However, the Czech Criminal Code does not use the concept of the “hate crimes”. In this respect, we talk about the crimes of extremist nature, whereas both concepts are complementary.

Apart from the criminal law mechanism, the Czech Republic has developed a “Strategy for Combating Extremism”, which is revised on a yearly basis. Reports on the implementation of the Strategy are annually presented to the Parliament of the Czech Republic. The report consists of information on the developments on the extremist scene during the year under review, and of the Anti-Extremism Policy Concept for the next year. In recent years, the Strategy has e.g. prevented extremists’ infiltration into security structures, and helped reduce the number of extremist concerts and demonstrations.

Furthermore, in reaction to the anti-Roma rhetoric of right-wing extremists, the project “Dawn” of the Ministry of Interior has been developed, in order to support non-repressive methods of police work, increase security in socially excluded neighbourhoods and contribute to the elimination of risk elements and prevention of extremists’ attacks.

Thank you.

