



**Right of Reply  
Delegation of Hungary**

**Working Session 12: Fundamental freedoms I.  
HDIM, 27. September 2016.  
Warsaw**

I would like to react to the statement made by the Forum for Religious Freedom.

The reason behind the introduction of a new church law in 2011 was that the previous advantageous liberal legal framework unfortunately had been massively misused. The new act went through several examinations, among others the CoE Venice Commission and the Hungarian Constitutional Court made an opinion on it. None of these actors found the violation of the freedom of religion and belief, but had concerns on the process of registration.

With regard to the decision of the European Court of Human Rights let me underline, that the implementation is not ignored but it is an ongoing process. The Government reached final agreement with six applicants and partial agreement with another three. In connection with the remaining seven, we are waiting for the final decision on the compensation by the European Court of Human Rights.

After long and extensive preparation, the Government submitted the draft amendment to the church law to the Parliament in 2015. The draft addressed the concerns, among others modified the registration procedure by putting it to the judiciary and set up objective criteria. Without the support of the opposition the amendment had not been adopted.

Finally, let me stress that the freedom of religion and belief is granted by the Fundamental Law of Hungary and full exercise of it is ensured individually and collectively.