

UPR MONITOR

International Service for Human Rights



Human Rights Monitor Series

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW, 3RD SESSION
LIECHTENSTEIN (FINAL)
REVIEWED ON 5 DECEMBER 2008, MORNING**

Overview

The Liechtenstein delegation was led by Ms Rita Kieber-Beck, Minister for Foreign Affairs, who was accompanied by a number of Government officials. Various delegates provided answers to the questions and comments of the Working Group. The delegation was well prepared, and addressed almost all issues raised during the review. More than 25 States took the floor during the review. The comments made were mostly laudatory, and only relatively few problematic issues were raised. Unfortunately a number of delegations referred in their statements to issues that had already been addressed or clarified, either in the opening statement or in the subsequent comments by Ms Kieber-Beck. Liechtenstein was appreciative of what Ms Kieber-Beck called ‘thought-provoking’ questions, and generally responded to all comments and issues.

General information on Liechtenstein

- Liechtenstein is not a member of the Human Rights Council.
- The members of the troika for the examination of Liechtenstein were Germany, Mexico, and Jordan.¹
- Liechtenstein held a national consultation, attended by ten national NGOs, in Vaduz on 18 August 2008.

Information submitted to the Working Group

The **national report** of Liechtenstein² is relatively exhaustive and covers issues related to human rights implementation, promotion and protection at the national level. The report is well structured, and provides general data on the country as well as information on pertinent issues, together with extensive examples. Liechtenstein self-critically analyses its achievements while recognising challenges and priorities in the field of human rights. The report provides numerous examples of the accomplishments and shortcomings pertaining to Liechtenstein’s adherence to human rights principles.

¹ There were no objections by Liechtenstein or by the members of the troika to the selection. For a full summary of the selection of troikas, see ISHR’s *Daily Update* of 8 September 2008, available at www.ishr.ch.

² A/HRC/WG.6/3/LIE/1, F, available at www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR%5CPAGES%5CLISession3.aspx.

The OHCHR **compilation of UN information**³ focuses on equality and non-discrimination; the right to life, liberty and the security of the person; the right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work; and the right to social security and to an adequate standard of living.

Two other stakeholders, the Council of Europe's Directorate of Monitoring (DGHL) (involving a coalition of Council of Europe agencies) and the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children, submitted information for the OHCHR's **summary of stakeholders' information**.⁴ The summary refers mainly to points made by the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), and the Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment of the Council of Europe (CPT), which address issues relating mainly to equality and non-discrimination, the right to life, liberty and security of the person, and the situation of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers.

Interactive dialogue⁵

Presentation by the State

In the well-structured opening presentation delivered by Ms Kieber-Beck, she updated the working group on relevant recent developments and Government decisions, and addressed questions that had been submitted by States in written form. Main issues she addressed included the situation of equality and non-discrimination, the rights of children, racism/xenophobia, naturalisation, human trafficking, and the integration of children of immigrants. The presentation was relatively concise, and provided the audience with salient information on relevant issues.

Themes and issues

Delegations referred with some frequency to the issue of **gender equality**.⁶ Drawing mainly on the concerns and recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, numerous States referred to the situation of gender-based discrimination. The delegation of Liechtenstein assured the audience that appropriate measures were being taken to raise awareness of gender-based discrimination. Further, the Government was committed to promoting equal opportunities for women, to making efforts to eradicate traditional stereotypes of the roles of women and men, and to ensuring an increase in women's participation in public and political life.

A further topic of concern to various States was **discrimination on the basis of race and ethnicity**,⁷ in particular alleged **racist/xenophobic tendencies** among segments of the population. In this context, a number of States voiced concerns about extreme right-wing movements, and discrimination on the basis of race, religion and nationality in Liechtenstein. The delegation of Liechtenstein reported that efforts were being made to recognise and counter such tendencies (for example through conducting relevant studies and monitoring of right-wing movements).

³ A/HRC/WG.6/3/LIE/2, available at www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR%5CPAGES%5CLISession3.aspx.

⁴ A/HRC/WG.6/3/LIE/3, available at www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR%5CPAGES%5CLISession3.aspx.

⁵ Most statements made at the UPR Working Group can be found at <http://portal.ohchr.org/portal/page/portal/UPR>. Fill in the form at www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/form.htm to receive username and password. Audiovisual archives of the meetings of the Working Group 'webcast' are available at www.un.org/webcast/unhrc/index.asp.

⁶ Sweden, Norway, Germany, Iran, Canada, Mexico.

⁷ Turkey, Brazil, Algeria, China, Malaysia.

Another point raised by a number of delegations was the **establishment of a national human rights institution** (NHRI).⁸ Several States commented on the fact that Liechtenstein had not set up an NHRI, and urged Liechtenstein to do so. However, with reference to various relevant national mechanisms already in place (such as a national equal opportunity commission), the head of delegation confirmed that the Government of Liechtenstein had no intention of setting up an NHRI.

Several speakers urged Liechtenstein to **ratify some of the core international treaties**.⁹ In particular, delegations referred to Liechtenstein's professed intention to sign up to a number of international treaties, including the Optional Protocols to the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, and the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*. With respect to the *International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families* (CMW), Liechtenstein argued that due to country-specific circumstances it is unable to accede to it.

States also engaged Liechtenstein in discussion on discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity,¹⁰ and international labour standards.¹¹

Adoption of the draft report

The draft report on the review of Liechtenstein by the Working Group was adopted on 10 December 2008.¹² Germany, speaking on behalf of the troika, presented the report and thanked Liechtenstein for its openness and its thorough responses. Liechtenstein thanked the Secretariat and the Working Group for its professionalism, and expressed its satisfaction with the keen interest in Liechtenstein's human rights policy. It acknowledged the value of other States' experience, and announced its willingness to apply best practice to further its own human rights policies. Following a minor editorial change by Canada, the Working Group adopted the report unanimously.

Liechtenstein accepts and supports 17 recommendations given by members of the Working Group, while it will further examine 26 recommendations. The final responses of Liechtenstein to the recommendations will be included in the outcome report to be adopted by the Council at its tenth session. None of the recommendations were immediately rejected.

⁸ Armenia, Bangladesh, Russian Federation.

⁹ Mexico, Argentina, Armenia.

¹⁰ Switzerland, Slovenia.

¹¹ Slovenia, Russian Federation.

¹² A/HRC/WG.6/3/L.9 available at www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR%5CPAGES%5CLISession3.aspx.

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