



Council of Europe plans to push Hungary on compliance with human rights

(Brussels, 25 April 2013) In a welcome move, the Monitoring Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe today adopted an opinion recommending that the Assembly opens a monitoring procedure on Hungary.

Amnesty International has serious concerns about legislation adopted in Hungary, in particular the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution adopted in March. Hungary is bound by a number of international human rights treaties, including the European Convention on Human Rights and as such is obliged to respect the rights protected therein and to guarantee these rights to all who are subject to its jurisdiction. Recent amendments to the Constitution clearly disregard these obligations.

Amnesty International is particularly concerned by three provisions that limit the scope of rights regarding protection from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation; the right to adequate housing; and the right to freedom of expression.

Amnesty International also welcomes the fact that the actions of the Hungarian government have finally led to serious discussions within the EU institutions and member states on the need for more effective mechanisms to protect fundamental rights within EU member states. Nevertheless we urge the EU to take prompt action, using all the tools available, to insist that human rights threatened by the most recent constitutional reform in Hungary are respected.

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