



No 12

January 5th, 2021

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria to the United Nations Office and other international organizations at Geneva presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights) and with reference to the official joint communication by several mandate holders, namely the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and associations, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity, under reference OL BGR 03/2020, dated 2 October 2020, has the honour to communicate the collective response provided by the competent Bulgarian authorities (herewith attached) in relation to the introduced draft law on amendments to the law on non-profit legal persons/entities, submitted by members of the Bulgarian parliament on 1 July 2020.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the United Nations (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights) the assurances of its highest consideration.

Annex: according to text (1 page).

**OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
SPECIAL PROCEDURES
BRANCH
GENEVA**



INFORMATION BY THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
ON INTRODUCED DRAFT LAW ON AMENDMENTS TO THE LAW ON NON-PROFIT
LEGAL PERSONS/ENTITIES, SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE BULGARIAN
PARLIAMENT ON 1 JULY 2020

In response to the joint address of the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and associations, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity, the government of the Republic of Bulgaria would like to convey the following information with regard to the draft law on amendments to the Law on Non-Profit Persons/Entities:

The initiative of introducing draft amendments to the Law on Non-Profit Persons/Entities belongs to a group of members of the Bulgarian Parliament (National Assembly). It was presented on 1 July 2020. The leading Parliamentary Committee for considering the draft amendments is the Committee on Legal Affairs, supported by the Committee on budget and financing, Committee on Interaction with Non-governmental organisations and the complaints of citizens. Upon presenting the current information, the draft amendments have not been included in the agenda of the responsible Committees nor such a decision has been taken.

An updated information on the agenda of the National Assembly Committees is published on the website of the National Assembly. Based on the Rules of Procedures of the National Assembly (*Prom. SG No 35/2 MAY 2017, amend. SG No 34/20 APR 2018*), the representatives of non-governmental organizations may submit written opinions by their own initiative on the draft laws under consideration by the Committees in charge. They also have the right to attend the meetings of the Committees and take part in the debates on the draft acts under consideration, concerning their scope of activity. Their opinions are published on the website of the respective Committee within the website of the National Assembly.

Regarding the draft amendments in subject, a total number of 31 written opinions by well-established non-governmental organisations were received. This is a mark for the interest of the non-government organisations as well as the substance of the suggested changes. Written opinion was also received by the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Finance and the Ombudsman. There was no opinion in support of the proposals.

All written opinions could be consulted online at the official website of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria:

<https://parliament.bg/bg/parliamentarycommittees/members/2592/standpoint/ID/11549>

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Sofia, Bulgaria