



Ministry of Labour and Social Policy

Commission for Protection  
against Discrimination

## INVITATION

### National Legal Workshop

**“Combating and preventing discrimination by the means of criminal law”**

**8-10 April 2010, Sofia, Bulgaria**

### Background

Recognizing the role of National Equality Bodies in combating discrimination, racism and other forms of intolerance, the Commission for Protection against Discrimination of the Republic of Bulgaria is organizing a National Legal Workshop “Combating and Preventing Discrimination by the Means of Criminal Law” on 8-10 April 2010 in Sofia. The forum is held as part of the **“Progress to Equality: National Effective and Innovative Practices to Combat and Prevent Discrimination”** Project VS/2009/004/0384, implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (MLSP) and the Commission for Protection against Discrimination (CPD), with the financial support of the EC, Progress Community Programme for employment and Social Solidarity 2007-2013.

### Objectives

In the past three years the CPD has established the tradition of organizing annual National Legal Workshops as unique forum providing an opportunity for magistrates, lawyers and judges at national and EU level to meet and exchange views, knowledge and experience on specific issues and cases. This year we have decided to focus on combating certain forms and expressions of racism, xenophobia and hate-crimes by means of criminal law. Bulgarian Judiciary has limited experience and case law on xenophobic, homophobic and discrimination cases. The insights of ECHR, ECJ and other international courts’ case-law would be immensely valuable. Furthermore, by virtue of Racial Equality Directive 2000/43/EC, 2000/78/EC and the Protection against Discrimination Act the promotion of equal treatment principle in society is a mission for the Commission for Protection against Discrimination. We will ensure that the lectures, discussions and workshops will address the Bulgarian context at the background of fight against hate crimes and will foster a dialogue on necessary legislation amendment to transpose properly the Council Framework Decision 2008/913/JHA of 28 November 2008 on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law.





Ministry of Labour and Social Policy

Commission for Protection  
against Discrimination

### **Agenda**

The Workshop will start at noon, 8 April 2010, with opening speeches of the heads of all relevant Ministries and Parliamentary Commissions.

The following day will provide an opportunity for exchange of expertise, recommendations and open discussions. Speakers from ODIHR/OSCE, European Commission and the Belgian Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism and the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance will present relevant subjects.

In the morning of 10 April 2010, summary and conclusions will be made by the relevant stakeholders.

### **Where and When**

**Maxi Park Hotel Spa, Sofia, Bulgaria; 8-10 April 2010**

### **Booking**

Please, send your request directly to the CPD, [m.spasova@kzd.bg](mailto:m.spasova@kzd.bg), [mimisps1971@abv.bg](mailto:mimisps1971@abv.bg), Tel. ++ 359 2 807 30 35 and fax ++ 359 2 870 8448.

Accommodation at **Maxi Park Hotel Spa and Tzarsko Selo Complex** (meals including) are covered by the Commission for Protection against Discrimination.

Participants are expected to cover their own travel costs.

**Enclosed: Draft agenda**

