



NEWS REPORT

Update of flash report nr:	608-MK-8-Law_implementation_starts.doc
Date:	1 February 2011
Expert:	Biljana Kotevska
Title:	Commission for Protection against Discrimination held its founding session
Country:	Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)
<u>Context</u>	
Issue at stake:	Commission for Protection against Discrimination – the first equality body in the Republic of Macedonia - held its founding session
Ground of discrimination:	All grounds
Source:	National equality body
Field:	Other: all fields
Legislative provisions:	Articles 1, 17, 24, 30 of the Law for the Prevention and Protection against Discrimination (2010)

Content

Political development: On 17 January 2011, the newly appointed members of the Commission for Protection against Discrimination held the founding session of the equality body. Concerns pertaining to the Commission persist as it starts receiving its first cases (see flash report MK 7).

The Commission elected a president with a one year mandate, and pledged to promptly complete all procedures and adopt all documents necessary for its effective functioning. Media reported that the first case has already been filed to the Commission, and that it concerns the field of employment. However, the procedures will start only once the premises of the Commission are opened. However, raising concerns persist about the starting ground for an independent functioning of this Commission. These include the fact that the Commission has been awarded premises in a building where there are sections of several ministries operating (including the Ministry of Interior), as well as that the funds awarded to the



Commission with the 2011 state budget¹ are barely sufficient to cover the basic monthly compensation expenses for the seven members.²

¹ Under article 16, paragraph 3 of Anti-discrimination law, the Commission can fund itself via other sources.

² Article 21 of the Anti-discrimination law foresees that the Members of the Commission will receive a monthly compensation of two average monthly salaries. As explained in the previous flash report, this can clearly not be accomplished with the amount foreseen in the budget.