

UPR Working group-14th session

Review of Czech Republic

- The **majority of the countries** recommended the ratification of the Optional protocol to the **Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography**. Concerning this issue, the delegation of the Czech Republic stated that a new amendment will be passed at the end of the year which will enable them to ratify said protocol.
- Hungary, Russia and Liechtenstein stressed the issue of **corporal punishments**, even though several awareness-raising campaigns were conducted by the national government.
- A recurring theme was the situation of the Roma minority, especially Roma children. Norway, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany and Italy, among others stressed the fact **Roma children were discriminated against in schools**. 30% of children who are placed in **special schools** are Roma, whereas they constitute 2% of the population (source: Delegation of Denmark).
- A lot of countries were concerned at the widespread attitude of accepting **institutionalized care** as a primary alternative to the family environment. The delegation responded that one of the objectives of the National Strategy was that the family should be preferred to institutionalized care.
- A lot of countries highlighted the fact that there were no clear definition of **child pornography** (Egypt, Greece, Liechtenstein, Uruguay)
- In 2012, the Czech Republic adopted a **National Strategy for the Protection of the Rights of the Child**. Nicaragua raised several gaps of this national strategy: no special prosecutor for children, no strategy concerning children trafficking, sale of children and sexual exploitation, Kyrgyzstan also raised the issue of sexual exploitation of this national strategy and recommended it to be revised.
- **Establishing a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris' principles** (recommendation n°11): The Czech Republic does not have a national human rights institution fully conforming to the Paris Principles. The institution that meets them most closely is the Ombudsman. The Ombudsman's task is to see to it that public power is exercised in accordance with the law and the principles of good governance. However, the **Ireland** recommended the creation of an Ombudsman office for children. **Morocco** raised the question of the field of competences of the Ombudsman concerning the children.