

Doc. 10966
21 June 2006

Ban on a Moscow demonstration by homosexuals

Written question No 497 to the Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers
presented by Mr Huss

In joining the Council of Europe in 1996 and ratifying the Convention on Human Rights the Russian Federation undertook to protect and develop human rights and fundamental freedoms. The first item in the programme of the Russian Committee of Ministers chairmanship, as presented in Strasbourg on 19 May, is "reinforcing national human rights protection mechanisms, development of human rights education and protection of rights of national minorities".

Yet in May 2006 Moscow city hall banned a demonstration which was to have been held on 27 May concerning tolerance and equal rights for homosexuals. Banning the demonstration contravened Article 11 of the Convention on Human Rights, which deals with freedom of assembly and association.

What were the reasons for banning the demonstration?

Does the Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers not agree that the Mayor of Moscow's decision infringed Article 11 of the Convention on Human Rights?

Can he provide me with information about steps taken or planned to avert any further breaches of that article?

Does the Russian Federation envisage any further measures to combat homophobia and all discrimination based on sexual orientation in that country?

*Signed*¹:

HUSS, Jean, Luxembourg, SOC

¹ SOC: Socialist Group
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EDG: European Democratic Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left
NR: not registered in a group