



NEWS REPORT

Date: 14 February 2013
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Title: Racist statement of the leader of the General Confederation of Portuguese Workers – National Trades Union (CGTP-IN)
Country: Portugal
Context
Issue at stake: Statement on the skin colour (black) of one of the IMF representative for Portugal
Ground of discrimination: Ethnic origin
Source: SOS Racismo, CEARD and *media*
Field: Ethnic origin
Legislative provisions: Law 134/99 of 28 August 1999, which forbids discrimination in the exercise of rights based on race, colour, nationality or ethnic origin and Decree-law 111/2000 of 4 July 2000 which regulates this law.

Content

Following the disclosure by the media of the statements made by, Arménio Carlos, the leader of the General Confederation of Portuguese Workers – National Trades Union CGTP: *"Soon will come around again the three wise men, the one from the European Central Bank [Rasmus Ruffer], the one from the European Commission [Juergen Kroeger] and the darker one, the one from the IMF [Abebe Selassie], and they will talk on further austerity measures."* ["o rei mago escurinho"]. The Standing Committee of the *Comissão para a Igualdade e Contra a Discriminação Racial* [Commission for Equality and Against Racial Discrimination (CEARD)] issued the following resolutions:

1 - The Committee considered that –statement in relation to skin color in the context of an allegory of the three Kings was unhappy, despite the public retraction by the Secretary-General of CGTP.

2 – The Committee mandated the President of the Commission for Equality and Against Racial Discrimination to contact the Secretary-General of CGTP to advice on its displeasure with statement, stressing the need for special care and respect of limits to citizenship, in the context of political and ideological battles in order to avoid unfair stigmatization of citizens in public opinion, especially from those who, by the functions and responsibilities they fulfil, should pay special attention to the consequences of their statements in Portuguese society.

For the leader of SOS Racism, the statement "indicates the worst thing: an insidious and subtle racism still existing in the Portuguese society." Subtle because "nobody in



Portugal stands out as racist," but the way we speak of "African or Roma" shows "the hypocrisy with regard to racism."

"We heard people mentioning the fact that it was one person of the left-wing to use that expression as if racism was an ideological question of left or right. It is not. It is a question of society, and the statements of Arménio Carlos is an example. This episode is an invitation to the Portuguese society to discuss on racism."

Sources: ACIDI - High Commissioner for Immigration and Intercultural Dialogue website:

http://www.acidi.gov.pt/noticias/visualizar-noticia/510a88f39899d/institucional_book.pdf

CES - Centro de Estudos Sociais [Centre of Social Studies] of the University of Lisbon- website:

http://saladeimprensa.ces.uc.pt/ficheiros/noticias/6975_MPM_Publico_2fev2013.pdf