

EQUINET Legal Seminar

EUROPEAN CONCEPTS OF EQUALITY ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF JUSTICE

Tuesday 30 June 2009, Brussels

VENUE & ADDRESS

Bibliothèque SOLVAY
Parc Léopold / Leopoldpark
137 rue Belliard
B-1040 Brussels, Belgium
Tel. +32 (0)27387596

TARGET PARTICIPATION

This seminar is aimed at legal experts and practitioners at an advanced level involved in anti-discrimination law – including legal staff/experts from national equality bodies, from the European Commission and EU institutions, from national and European NGOs, legal research organizations, trade unions and legal experts and practitioners in the field of non-discrimination and equal treatment law.

OBJECTIVES

The legal seminar has the following main objectives:

- to present the scope of EU anti-discrimination legislation
- to discuss possible and potential interpretations of the existing laws
- to present recent developments in the ECJ's judiciary with regard to equal treatment
- to debate how national equality bodies can make use of their powers in relation to litigation before national and European courts

The EQUINET legal seminar will provide an opportunity for lawyers working for national equality bodies to meet and exchange with other legal experts and practitioners in the field of non-discrimination law at an advanced level of expertise.

LANGUAGE

The working languages of the meeting will be English and French.



With the support of the European Commission

SEMINAR PROGRAMME

Tuesday 30 June 2009		
09.00 – 10.00	Registration	
10.00 – 11.15	Session 1 – EU Legislation on equal treatment. Scope and possible litigation <i>Chair: Ingrid Nikolay-Leitner, Ombud for Equal Treatment, Austria</i>	
10.00 - 10.05	Opening & Introduction to the seminar by EQUINET	Ingrid NIKOLAY-LEITNER Equinet Board Member
10.05 - 10.25	Community anti-discrimination legislation. Possible developments and interpretations	Professor Evelyn ELLIS Birmingham Law School & Adjunct Professor, University of Western Australia
10.25 – 10.45	ECJ limits in discrimination. Preliminary ruling procedure before ECJ. How national equality bodies can make use of it?	Bjørn Dilou JACOBSEN Danish Institute for Human Rights, Denmark
10.45 – 11.05	Litigation before the ECJ: Practice and plans of a national equality body	Peter READING Senior Lawyer, Equality and Human Rights Commission, Great Britain
11.05 – 11.20	Questions & Answers – Discussion	
11.25 - 11.45	<i>Break: coffee / tea</i>	



11.45 – 13.05		
Session 2 – Anti-discrimination legislation and its impact on respective grounds		
<i>Chair: Sophie Latraverse, Deputy Legal Director, HALDE, France</i>		
11.45- 12.05	Public discriminatory statements. Feryn case	Ingrid AENDENBOOM Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism, Belgium
12.05 – 12.25	Discrimination by association. Coleman Case	Paul MICHELL Employment Law Specialist, appeared before the ECJ in Coleman v. Attridge Law case, United Kingdom
12.25 – 12.45	Sexual orientation and gender identity in the ECJ's rulings. Possible developments in the field	Dr Helmut GRAUPNER Expert on anti-discrimination law involved in T. Maruko Case, Austria
12.45 – 13.05	Questions & Answers – Discussion	
13.05 - 14.20 Lunch		
14.20 – 15.50		
Session 3 – Anti-discrimination legislation and its impact on respective grounds (continued)		
<i>Chair: Pia Engström Lindgren, Deputy Equality Ombudsman, Sweden</i>		

14.20 – 14.45	ECJ rulings with regard to discrimination on the ground of age	Professor Marie MERCAT BRUNS Sciences Po, France
14.45 – 15.10	ECJ rulings with regard to discrimination on the ground of disability	Prof. Lisa WADDINGTON Disability Forum Chair in European Disability Law, Maastricht University, Netherlands
15.10 – 15.40	Questions & Answers – Discussion	
15.40- 15.50	<i>Closing of the Seminar</i>	



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