

## EQUINET HIGH-LEVEL LEGAL SEMINAR

*Legal developments and concepts in the field of equality and non-discrimination in Europe*

Institute for the Equality of Women and Men  
1 Rue Ernest Blerot  
Brussels

### SEMINAR PROGRAMME

DAY 1		
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2010		
09.00 – 09.20	Registration	
09.20 – 09.40	<b>Opening Address</b>	
	<i>Mandana Zarrehtarvar, Chair of EQUINET Board, Danish Institute for Human Rights (Denmark)</i>	
	<i>Michel Pasteel, Director, Institute for the Equality of Women and Men (Belgium)</i>	
09.40 – 11.10	<b>Session 1 (Plenary) – Influencing the Interpretation of the Law through litigation – EQUINET report.</b>	
	<i>Chair: Kalliopi Lykovardi, Senior Investigator, Office of the Greek Ombudsman, and EQUINET Board Member</i>	
09.40 - 10.05	<b>The importance of strategic litigation for equality bodies</b>	<b>Peter READING</b>
		Equality and Human Rights Commission (UK-Great Britain)
10.05 - 10.30	<b>The Powers and Practices of Equality Bodies - presentation of the results of the EQUINET survey</b>	<b>Nanna Margrethe KRUSAA</b>
		Danish Institute for Human Rights (Denmark)

10.30 – 10.45	<b>Comments from the European Commission</b>	<b>Stefan OLSSON</b>  <b>Head of Unit Equality, Action against Discrimination: Legal Questions, European Commission</b>
10.45 – 11.10	Questions & Answers – Discussion	
<b>11.10 - 11.40</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>	
<b>11.40 – 13.00</b>	<b>Working Discussions – Litigating discrimination cases strategically with the effective use of Equality Bodies’ powers</b>	
	<b>GROUP A, Plenary Room Auditorium Storck</b>	<u>Facilitator</u>  <i>Marije Graven, Equal Treatment Commission (The Netherlands)</i>
	<b>GROUP B, Break-Out Room Laermans</b>	<u>Facilitator</u>  <i>Michiel Bonte, Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism (Belgium)</i>
	<b>GROUP C, Break-Out Room Marissiaux</b>	<u>Facilitator</u>  <i>Ellis Barry, legal expert (Ireland)</i>
<b>13.00 - 14.15</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	

<b>14.15 – 15.30</b>		
<b>Session 2 (Plenary) – UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities – new tool of equality protection</b>		
<i>Chair: Jozef de Witte, Director, Center for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism (Belgium) and EQUINET Board Member</i>		
14.15 – 14.45	<b>UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as a new international instrument of protection of rights</b>	<b>Alexander HOEFMANS</b> <b>Federal Ministry of Justice (Belgium)</b>
14.45 – 15.15	<b>The EU's upcoming conclusion of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Practical implications and governance issues for the EU, its Member States and its institutions</b>	<b>Inmaculada PLACENCIA PORRERO</b> <b>Deputy Head of Unit, Integration of People with Disabilities, European Commission</b>
15.15 – 15.30	Questions & Answers – Discussion	
<b>15.30 – 17.00</b>		
<b>Session 3 (Plenary) – Age and Gender discrimination</b>		
<i>Chair: Ingrid Nikolay - Leitner, Equal Treatment Ombud (Austria) and EQUINET Board Member</i>		
15.30 – 16.00	<b>Age limits in ECJ recent judiciary</b>	<b>Declan O'DEMPSEY,</b> <b>Barrister, Cloisters Chambers, London (UK-Great Britain)</b>
16.00 – 16.30	<b>Use of gender factor in justifying differences in treatment in access to goods and services</b>	<b>Kristīne DUPATE</b> <b>University of Latvia (Latvia)</b>
16.30 – 16.50	Questions & Answers – Discussion	

**16.50- 17.00 End of the DAY I – Practical information (social event)**

17.00 – 17.30 Discussion on EQUINET Strategic Plan 2011-2014 (open to all)

**18.00 – 22.00 Apéritif and Social Dinner on the terrace (if weather allows)**  
***La Grande Écluse*, Boulevard Poincaré, 77 - Brussels**

**DAY 2**

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2010**

08.45 – 09.00 Registration

09.00 – 11.00 **Session 4 (Plenary) – Transgender discrimination. Legal frameworks in the European legislation**  
*Chair: Mandana Zarreparvar, Chair of EQUINET Board, Danish Institute for Human Rights (Denmark)*

09.00 - 09.30 **Reports from Working Discussions and Q&A discussion**

09.30 - 10.00 **Do we need a separate ground for gender expression/identity?** **Lauri SIVONEN**  
**Advisor to the Commissioner for Human Rights, Council of Europe**

10.00 – 10.30 **How EU gender legislation can serve to protect transgender people rights** **Prof. Elisabeth HOLZLEITHNER**  
**Law Faculty, University of Vienna (Austria)**

10.30 – 11.00 Questions & Answers – Discussion



<b>11.00 – 11.20 Coffee Break</b>		
<b>11.20 – 12.50 Plenary Session 5 – New possibilities of protection against discrimination under the Lisbon Treaty and the European Convention on Human Rights</b>		
<i>Chair: Domenica Ghidei, Commissioner, Equal Treatment Commission (The Netherlands) and EQUINET Board Member</i>		
11.20 – 11.50	<b>Concepts of discrimination in ECHR judiciary</b>	<b>Dr Adam BODNAR</b>  <b>University of Warsaw (Poland)</b>
11.50 – 12.20	<b>EU joining the European Convention on Human Rights. New opportunities under two systems: Lisbon Treaty with Charter of Fundamental Rights and ECHR</b>	<b>Dr Mario OETHEIMER</b>  <b>Programme Manager - Legal Research, EU Agency of Fundamental Rights (FRA)</b>
12.20 – 12.50	Questions & Answers – Discussion	
12.50 - 13.00	<b>Closing of the seminar</b>  <i>Anne Gaspard, Executive Director EQUINET Secretariat</i>	
<b>13.00 -14.00 Lunch &amp; Departure of participants</b>		