

## **EQUINET Legal Seminar**

### ***Discrimination cases in front of the European Courts and the role of national equality bodies***

**Wednesday 28 March 2012, Brussels**

#### **VENUE AND ADDRESS**

**The International Auditorium**  
Boulevard du Roi Albert II, 5  
1210 Brussels

#### **GOAL**

The legal seminar will aim to provide senior legal expert participants with insights into the cutting edge of European court cases and procedures in the field of equality and non-discrimination.

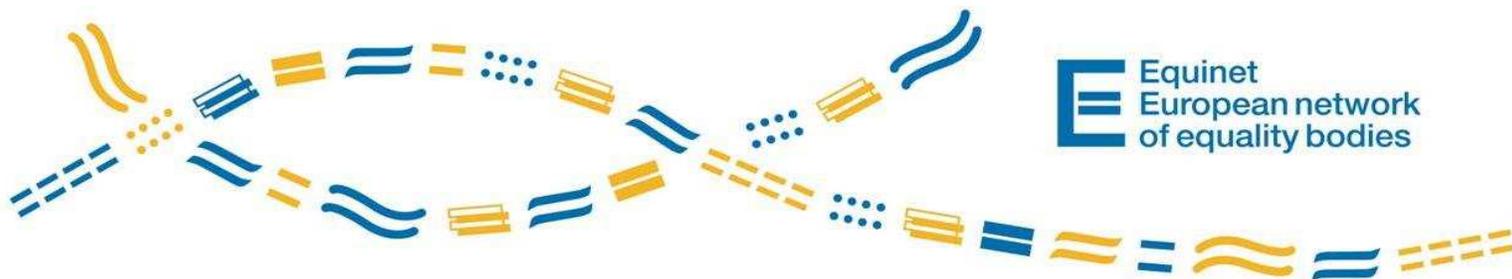
#### **OBJECTIVES**

The legal seminar has the following main objectives:

- to present recent developments in the CJEU's judgments with regard to equal treatment
- to explore and discuss how national equality bodies can make use of their powers in relation to litigation before national and European courts
- to discuss possible and potential interpretations of the existing laws
- to provide an opportunity for senior lawyers of national equality bodies to meet and exchange with other senior legal experts and practitioners in the field of non-discrimination law

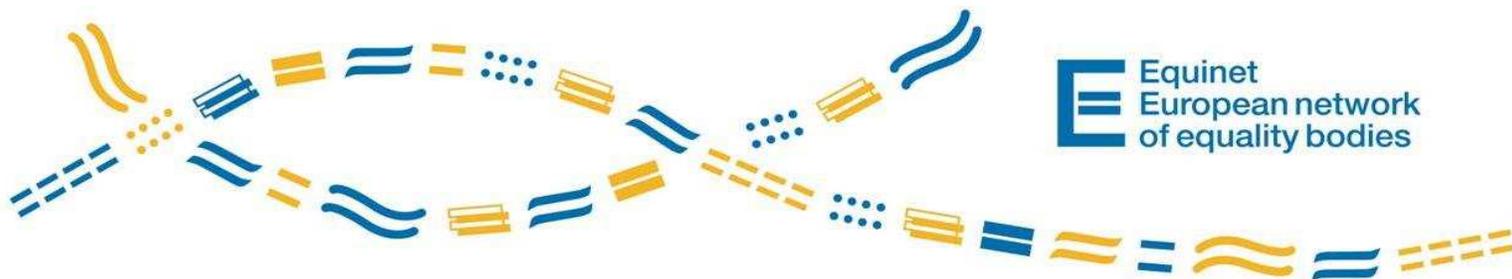
#### **TARGET AUDIENCE**

The seminar is aimed at legal experts and practitioners involved in anti-discrimination law – including senior legal staff/experts from national equality bodies, from the European Institutions, agencies and other international organisations, from national and European NGOs, the academic world and social partners active in the field of non-discrimination and equal treatment law.



## Legal Seminar Programme

28 March 2012 (Wednesday)		
08.30 – 09.00	Registration	
09.00 – 09.30	<b>Opening Address</b> <b>Jozef De Witte</b> , Chair of the Equinet Executive Board, Director of the Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism (Belgium) <b>Aurel Ciobanu-Dordea</b> , Director for Equality, DG Justice, European Commission	
<b>09.30 – 11.15</b>	<b>Session 1 – Litigating discrimination cases in front of the CJEU</b> <i>Chair: <b>Ingrid Aendenboom</b>, Legal Adviser, Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism (Belgium)</i>	
09.30 – 10.15	<b>The jurisprudence of the Court of Justice of the EU in discrimination cases, with a focus on the potential role and added value of national equality bodies in these procedures</b>	<b>Robin Allen QC</b> <b>Barrister, Head of Chambers</b> <b>Cloisters Chambers, London</b>
10.15 – 10.45	<b>The challenges of convincing national courts to refer a case and certain specific questions to the CJEU – lessons from particular cases</b>	<b>Clare Collier</b> <b>Senior Lawyer</b> <b>Equality and Human Rights Commission (UK – GB)</b>
10.45 – 11.15	Questions & Answers – Discussion	
<b>11.15 – 11.45</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>	
<b>11.45 – 13.00</b>	<b>Session 2 – Involvement of national equality bodies in CJEU proceedings</b> <i>Chair: <b>Domenica Ghidai</b>, Commissioner, Equal Treatment Commission (The Netherlands) and Equinet Executive Board Member</i>	
11.45 – 12.15	<b>The different options for national equality bodies to get involved in CJEU proceedings. The Belov case (C-394/11) and the actions of the equality body</b>	<b>Nanna Margrethe Krusaa</b> <b>Special consultant</b> <b>Danish Institute for Human Rights</b> <b>and</b> <b>Esen Fikri</b> <b>Commissioner</b>



		<b>Commission for Protection against Discrimination, Bulgaria</b>
12.15 – 12.30	<b>European Commission reaction to the different options and the added value of national equality bodies getting involved in CJEU cases, including the possibility of intervention</b>	<b>Andreas Stein</b> Head of Unit European Commission DG JUST Equal Treatment Legislation D.1
12.30 – 13.00	Questions & Answers – Discussion	
<b>13.00 – 14.15</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	
<b>14.15 – 16.30</b>	<b>Session 3 – Key discrimination cases at national and European level</b> <i>Chair: Tena Šimonović Einwalter, Coordinator for the Area of Non-discrimination, Office of the Ombudsman (Croatia) and Equinet Executive Board Member</i>	
14.15 – 14.45	<b>The limits of freedom of religion and its conflict with the rights of groups identified by sexual orientation – petitions to the European Court of Human Rights</b>	<b>Peter Reading</b> Director of Legal Policy Equality and Human Rights Commission (UK – GB)
14.45 – 14.55	Questions & Answers - Discussion	
14.55 – 15.25	<b>The Galina Meister case (C-415/10) and the right to information of applicants in a recruitment procedure. Implications for the shift of the burden of proof</b>	<b>Lilla Farkas</b> Senior Legal Policy Consultant Migration Policy Group
15.25 – 15.35	Questions & Answers - Discussion	
15.35 – 16.05	<b>CJEU cases on compulsory retirement age</b>	<b>Dr. Felipe Temming, LL.M.</b> Universität zu Köln
16.05 – 16.30	Questions & Answers – Discussion	
<b>16.30 – 16.40</b>	<b>Closing of the seminar</b> <i>Anne Gaspard, Executive Director Equinet Secretariat</i>	