

**Equinet Executive Board Meeting IV**  
**27 & 28 September 2012**  
**Valletta, Malta**

**Venue:**

**27 September 2012 (afternoon):**

National Commission for the Promotion of Equality (NCPE)  
Gattard House, National Road,  
HMR 9010 Blata I-Bajda  
Malta

**28 September 2012 (morning):**

Grand Hotel Excelsior  
Great Siege Road,  
FRN1810 Floriana  
Malta

**ATTENDANCE:**

Board Members:

Jozef De Witte (JDW) - Chair  
Evelyn Collins (ECo)  
Domenica Ghidei (DG)  
Elke Lujansky-Lammer (EL)  
Therese Spiteri (TS)  
Néphéli Yatropoulos (NY)  
Tena Simonovic-Einwalter (TSE)

Board Advisor:

Niall Crowley (NC)

Equinet Secretariat:

Tamás Kádár (TK), Policy Officer  
Yannick Godin (YG), Administration Officer  
Cosmin Popa (CP), Communications Assistant  
Catharina Sahl (CS), Policy Assistant  
Raili Uibo (RU), Trainee – Policy Assistant

**Apologies:**

Csaba Ferenc Asztalos (CA)  
Julija Sartuch (JS)  
Anne Gaspard (AG), Executive Director

**Chair of the meeting:** Jozef De Witte (JDW)

**Minutes:** Yannick Godin (YG) + Catharina Sahl (CS)

**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**DAY 1 (15:30-18:30)**  
**Thursday 27 September 2012**

## **1. Opening**

Jozef De Witte (JDW) opened the Board Meeting at 15:30 and welcomed all Board Members and Equinet Secretariat team. The proposed agenda for the meeting was reviewed and agreed upon by all participants.

JDW presented apologies received from Csaba Ferenc Asztalos, Julija Sartuch and Anne Gaspard.

## **2. Announcements**

**JDW:** Belgian Centre to be transformed into an inter-federal service.

**NY:** 8 October: Major Conference Stop & Search Policy in Paris

**DG:** as of 2 October, the Dutch CGB will become the Netherlands Institute for Human Rights

**TS:** remit of the NCPE was extended to include all grounds but disability. New resources have been received to deal with the extra workload.

**NC:** the Irish merger of the EB and the NHRI has ground to a standstill. So far, it is an example of how difficult it is to reach a balance between equality and human rights, as the merger seemed to be more favorable to the human rights part (in terms of nominations, legislation...).

## **3. Minutes of last Equinet meetings**

**DECISION:** Minutes of the 24-25 May Equinet Board Meeting are adopted by the Board and can be uploaded on the Equinet website's Members section.

## **4. Strategic Issues**

EC Network of Gender Equality Bodies

TK and JDW explained why it will not be possible to absorb the whole budget currently available to the Network of Gender Equality Bodies, because of co-funding rules and the impossibility to raise Membership fees and Time commitments enough to comply with the co-funding rule for the whole budget. Equinet should be able to claim half (+/- 125,000eur) of what is available.

The Board agrees that it is preferable not to launch the recruitment of the new Policy Officer before the incorporation of the gender EB network's work is ratified by the Equinet AGM.

**DECISION:** the Board will keep all Members informed of the developments regarding the proposed incorporation of the work of the Gender Network. The revised Proposal note that Equinet has prepared will be sent out to them as soon as possible.

**DECISION:** Equinet will apply its rules to the Gender-related events (no interpretation except for exceptional reason, no organisation of travel).

Job Description: The board commented on the draft job description and a revised version will be drafted taking into account the remarks from the Board.

Draft Work Plan 2013

The draft was reviewed by the Board in light of list of amendments proposed by the Secretariat.

**DECISION:** All the proposed amendments were approved and the Work Programme will be updated accordingly.

- Page 5: “uncertainty” instead of “insecurity”
- Page 5: “Equinet activities” instead of “Equinet working groups”

The Board agrees that there should be a general reflection when designing Equinet activities of how best to preserve and spread the learning of the event after it has taken place (summaries, recordings...).

CRPD Initiative

CS: feedback to the email sent out to all Members was weak. Out of the 16 respondents, 5 declared they had the CRPD mandate. The 5 respondents demonstrated a particular interest in coordinating with the Working Group on CRPD at the European Group of NHRIs.

TK contacted Sara Brunet (from EHRC), Moderator of the Working Group and will talk to her on 11 October. The Working group is meeting on 24 October in Brussels.

It appears that in total, 8 Equinet Members have a mandate on the CRPD out of which 4 are also NHRI.

=== END OF DAY 1 ===

**DAY 2 (09:00-12:00)**  
**Friday 28 September 2012**

## **5. Priority Issues – Work Programme 2012**

### **▪ AGM 2012**

The Board commented and reviewed the proposed draft agenda for the meeting.

**DECISION:** Election Procedures for Board Members: The Board reviewed the proposed Election Procedures for Board Members. The final version will be produced by the Secretariat taking into account the decisions of the Board.

## **6. Planning Issues – Equinet Work Programme 2012**

Working Group: The response to the data collection template questionnaire for quasi-judicial bodies has been disappointing. It seems that Members find it difficult to come up with the requested information.

**DECISION:** instead of attempting to compile data at European level, members will be given a link to relevant web pages where national level complaints data are displayed (if and when available).

## **7. Relevant EU and European stakeholders initiatives**

EIGE platform: Equinet will keep following the development of this info-sharing platform and assess its potential added-value for it and its Members.

**DECISION:** Meeting with the EC anti-discrimination units (9 October): Secretariat to send a summary report on the discussions held on that occasion.

## **8. Finances**

**DECISION:** Membership fee reminders to be sent out to Norway, Italy and ACIDI (Portugal)

**DECISION:** Regarding the Equinet external evaluation, in order to get a fresh eye on Equinet activities, a limited (4-5 targets) call for tender open to several potential evaluators will be sent out as soon as possible. The offers tendered will be reviewed by TK and NC.

JDW: each year, an evaluation could focus on a particular aspect of Equinet's work.

## **9. Next Meeting(s)**

04 December 2012: Equinet Board Meeting (Brussels)

**05 December 2012: Equinet AGM (Brussels)**

==== The Chair Jozef De Witte (JDW) closed the Board Meeting at 12:00 ====