

Latest EU and international developments - March 2015

Dear Equinet Members,

This Members' Bulletin gathers the **latest European Union (EU) and international developments**. It aims at giving you an overview of **relevant policy and legal developments, as well as latest calls for interest, funding opportunities and upcoming events**. We very much hope this Members' Bulletin will be useful in your day-to-day work and we would be grateful if you could disseminate it among your colleagues. **Your feedback is also greatly appreciated**. Should you have comments or further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jessica Machacova, Equinet Project Officer (Jessica.machacova@equineteurope.org / 0032 2 212 31 80).

HIGHLIGHT - New European Commission takes up office



In October 2014, the new European Commission College of Commissioners took up office for a 5-year term under leadership of the president Jean-Claude Juncker. The full composition of the College is available [here](#). Here is an overview of key EU Commissioners relating to the areas of equality and anti-discrimination:



Frans Timmermans (NL)
First Vice-President for Better Regulation, Inter-institutional Relations, the Rule of Law **and the Charter of Fundamental Rights**



Věra Jourová (CZ)
EU Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality



Marianne Thyssen (BE)
EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility



Dimitris Avramopoulos (GR)
EU Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship

Thematic Policy Developments

General Developments

European Parliament: List of relevant Intergroups

European Parliament Intergroups "can be formed by Members of the European Parliament from any political group and any committee, with a view to holding **informal exchanges of views** on particular subjects and promoting contact between Members and civil society."

Following the election of the **new European Parliament** in May 2014, a list of new Intergroups has been adopted. Among the most relevant ones, we can mention:

- The **LGBTI** Intergroup
- The **Freedom of Religion and Belief and Religious Tolerance** Intergroup
- The **Anti-Racism and Diversity** Intergroup
- The **Disability** Intergroup

The **full list** of EP Intergroups is available [here](#).



EU Horizontal Directive: Latest State of Play

Political discussions on the **Horizontal Directive** (Directive proposal covering the grounds of age, disability, religion and belief and sexual orientation beyond the field of employment) have accelerated in recent months. All three institutions involved in EU law-making seem to have defined this Directive as a priority (see recent [Equinet Internal Note](#)). However, a handful of Member States still maintain reservations.

In March 2015, Equinet Secretariat **met with Ulrike Lunacek** (European Parliament Rapporteur of the proposal of Directive) and EU Civil Society organisations to share information and coordinate upcoming actions.



EU Agencies sign joint statement to strengthen fundamental rights' protection in the EU

On 20th February 2015, **heads of all EU agencies** met in Brussels and committed to strengthen fundamental rights' protection in their areas of work and internal management. The joint statement is available [here](#).



Results of the public consultation on the Europe 2020

The Commission has adopted a [Communication](#) on the results of the public consultation on the **Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth**. These results will pave the way for a review of the Europe 2020 strategy later this year.

At the same time Eurostat, the EU's statistical office published [a report](#) on the state-of-play of the EU 2020 indicators showing the progress achieved and the challenges remaining in each field.

EUROPE 2020

New Directive as regards disclosure of non-financial and diversity information

The Council adopted a new Directive amending Directive 2013/34/EU as regards disclosure of non-financial and **diversity information by certain large undertakings and groups**. The amended Directive will have to be transposed by EU Member States by June 2015.



Latvian Presidency of the EU (1st January - 30th June 2015)

On 1st January 2015, **Latvia** took up the Presidency of the Council of the EU. This semester, focus will be put on **competitiveness** and **Digital Europe**. Priorities and programme of the Latvian Presidency are available [here](#).



Gender Equality

New EU rules for better protection of victims of violence in the EU

In January 2015, two new instruments to ensure better protection of victims of violence in the EU entered into application:

- The [Regulation on Mutual Recognition of Protection Measures in Civil Matters](#)
- The [Directive on the European Protection Order](#)

More information is available [here](#).



Race/Ethnicity

9th European Platform for Roma Inclusion (16-17 March, Brussels, Belgium)

The next meeting of the European Platform for Roma Inclusion will be held on 16th and 17th March 2015 in Brussels, Belgium. Participation is by invitation only.

The draft agenda can be downloaded [here](#).



Latest resources, funding opportunities and calls for proposals

General Information

- **European Commission - Call for Tender:** ["Analysis and Comparative Review of Equality Data Collection Practices in the EU"](#) (Deadline: 15/04/2015)
- **European Commission - Call for Expression of Interest:** [experts on Justice Programme and the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme \(2014-2020\)](#) (Deadline: 30/09/2020)
- **European Ombudsman - Vacancy:** [Recruitment of a Secretary General](#) (Deadline: 22/03/2015)
- **Council of Europe - European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) - New reports on Greece, Norway, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg and Montenegro**
- **Council of Europe - Commissioner for Human Rights - 4th Quaterly Activity Report**

Gender Equality

- **European Commission - Call for Proposals:** [Projects supporting Economic Independence of Women](#) (Deadline: 31/03/2015)
- **European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) - Factsheet:** [Good Practices on Reconciliation of Work, Family and Private Life](#)
- **European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) - Report:** [4th Review of the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the EU Members States](#)
- **Council of Europe - First Progress Implementation Report** of the Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017



Age



- **European Commission - Daphne Call: Transnational projects linked to children as victims of bullying** (Deadline: 10/03/2015)

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity



- **Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) - Report: "Being Trans in the EU - Comparative analysis of the EU LGBT survey data"**
- **Council of Europe - Call for Experts in the field of sexual orientation and gender identity** (Deadline: 31 March 2015)

Recent Case-Law

European Court of Justice (ECJ)

- **Judgment in Case C-623/13 - Ministre de l'Économie et des Finances v Gérard de Ruyter - 26 February 2015**
Freedom of movement of EU workers - the income from assets of French residents who work in another Member State cannot be made subject to French social contributions - available [here](#)

European Court of Human Rights (ECHR)

- **Güler and Ugur v. Turkey - 2 December 2014**
Violation of article 9 - Lack of precision and foreseeability of domestic law concerning terrorism propaganda - available [here](#) (in French only)
- **Ciorcan and others v Romania - 27 January 2015**
Violation of article 2 (Right to Life), article 3 (Freedom from Inhuman Treatment), article 14 (Freedom from Discrimination) - available [here](#).

Thank you very much for your attention!

The next Equinet Members' Bulletin (on Equinet internal updates) will be sent around mid-March

