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**Dear Equinet Members,**This Members’ Bulletin gathers **the latest European Union (EU) and international developments**. It aims to give 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 any comments or further questions, **please do not hesitate to contact Jessica Machacova, Equinet Project Officer** ([Jessica.machacova@equineteurope.org](mailto:Jessica.machacova@equineteurope.org) / 0032 2 212 31 80).

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# HIGHLIGHT: Horizontal Directive – Joint appeal for European discrimination protection initiated by the German Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency

  
More than **40 associations and NGOs from Germany and Europe** have co-signed a [**joint statement**](http://www.equineteurope.org/IMG/pdf/20150723_joint_statement_en.pdf), initiated by our member equality body the [German Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency (FADA)](http://www.antidiskriminierungsstelle.de/SharedDocs/Aktuelles/DE/2015/20150723_Gemeinsame_Erklaerung.html) and Equinet, calling on the German government to stop blocking the Equal Treatment Directive of the European Union (the so-called Horizontal Directive).

"It is incomprehensible that Germany is single-handedly blocking better protection against discrimination across Europe", said **Christine Lüders, Head of the Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency (FADA)**. "The federal government thereby accepts that people with disabilities in many European countries are denied access to premises, or that hoteliers may refuse to rent rooms to gays or lesbians" for example.

The first signatories of the Joint Declaration, including Equinet and our German member FADA, **call on the federal government to change its attitude to the Equal Treatment Directive** and pave the way for substantive negotiations. At the same time, they ask the federal government to enter into dialogue with them about the meaning of the Directive.

* Read our full article and the joint appeal [here](http://www.equineteurope.org/Joint-appeal-for-European).
* Read more about the meeting of FADA and its partners in Berlin (26 June) to define the final version of the joint statement [here](http://www.equineteurope.org/FADAmeetingHorizontalDirective).
* Read Christine Lüders’ call for the swift adoption of the Horizontal Directive [here](http://www.equineteurope.org/Head-of-Germany-s-Equality-Body).

# Thematic Policy Developments

## General information

**Luxembourg takes over six-month presidency of the Council of the European Union**

On 1st July 2015, Luxembourg took over the presidency of the Council of the European Union for a six-month term. Priorities in the area of Justice and Home Affairs were discussed during an exchange of views organised by the European Parliament Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE). They include:

* **Promotion of gender equality at all levels**. Particular attention will be paid to increasing the rate of female employment and to a balanced representation of women and men in political and economic decision-making as factors of competitiveness.
* **Promotion of the principle of non-discrimination** as enshrined in the EU texts, included the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU. In this context, the Luxembourg Presidency will continue efforts to adopt the proposal of EU Horizontal Directive *(see highlight above)*.

More information about the Luxembourg EU presidency is available [here](http://www.eu2015lu.eu/en/index.html).

**New FRA Management Board takes office**

In July 2015, new members of FRA (European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights) Management Board took office. The Management Board is responsible for adopting FRA’s annual work programme and annual report. It is composed of one independent expert from each EU Member State, two representatives of the European Commission and one independent expert appointed by the Council of Europe. The Management Board is renewed every 5 years.

Find the list of new members [here](http://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2015/new-fra-management-board-members-take-office?_cldee=amVzc2ljYS5tYWNoYWNvdmFAZXF1aW5ldGV1cm9wZS5vcmc%3d&urlid=10).

## Gender Equality

**European Parliament: two opinions and two reports adopted by the FEMM Committee**

In June and July 2015, the FEMM (Women’s Rights and Gender Equality) Committee of the European Parliament adopted two opinions and two reports:

* [**Report on empowering girls through education**](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=REPORT&reference=A8-2015-0206&format=XML&language=EN) (23rd June 2015). For instance, it calls on “*the Member States to ensure equal access to education for girls and boys, regardless of their age, gender, socio-economic status, cultural background or religion, and emphasises the need for European, national, and local institutions to promote specific programmes to integrate marginalised communities in general in schools as well as, in particular, girls from those communities, since they often face multiple discrimination, and all minorities in European society; highlights the importance of ensuring that girls complete their secondary education, and emphasises the need for financial assistance programmes for economically disadvantaged families in order to prevent students dropping out of school, particularly girls*”.
* [**Report on the application of Directive 2006/54/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2006 on the implementation of the principle of equal opportunities and equal treatment of men and women in matters of employment and occupation**](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=REPORT&reference=A8-2015-0213&format=XML&language=EN) (25th June 2015). The report makes several references to equality bodies. In particular, it mentions that **“*equality bodies should have the competences and adequate resources and personnel to monitor and report effectively and independently on the legislation which promotes equality between women and men; stresses that the independence of equality bodies needs to be ensured in all Member States, and that the precise institutional form of these bodies is the responsibility of the Member States*”.**
* [**Opinion on cohesion policy and marginalised communities**](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=COMPARL&reference=PE-554.696&format=PDF&language=EN&secondRef=02)(15th July 2015). The opinion calls for “*a gender perspective and an intersectional analysis to be incorporated into all EU-funded integration and social inclusion initiatives, programmes, actions and funding arrangements so that the specific needs of women in marginalised communities can be better addressed and the variety of voices and perspectives of women in different structural positions and roles can be better captured*”.
* [**Opinion on the EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2014-2020**](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=COMPARL&reference=PE-557.295&format=PDF&language=EN&secondRef=02) (15th July 2015). For instance, the opinion calls on “*the Member States to implement Commission Recommendation 92/131/EEC to promote awareness against sexual harassment, or other conduct based on sex and affecting dignity; calls on the Member States also to take action in the public sector in order to implement the Commission’s code of conduct, as an example to the private sector*.”

**Council of the European Union adopts conclusions on the gender pension gap**

On 14th June 2015, the Council of the EU adopted conclusions calling on EU Member States to address the gender pension gap in the European Union and promote research and awareness-raising in this area. The full conclusions are available [here](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/register/en/content/out/?&typ=ENTRY&i=LD&DOC_ID=ST-9302-2015-INIT).

## Race and Ethnicity

**Council of Europe – ECRI: Consultation on the next draft of the ECRI General Policy Recommendation No. 16 on safeguarding irregularly present migrants from discrimination.**

The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) is welcoming comments on the draft General Policy Recommendation No. 16 on safeguarding irregularly present migrants from discrimination by 14th September 2015. More information is available on [Equinet’s Members’ Area](http://www.equineteurope.org/ECRI-Consultation-on-the-next).

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## Religion and Belief

**European Commission: Statement of Frans Timmermans and Věra Jourová on anti-Semitism, hate speech and hate crime**

On 13th July 2015, Frans Timmermans, First Vice-President of the European Commission, and Věra Jourová, EU Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality published [a statement](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/fundamental-rights/news/20150713_en.htm) recalling the role and efforts of the EU in combating anti-Semitism, hate speech and hate crime. The statement highlights that “the Commission is actively engaged in awareness-raising. It supports Member States in monitoring incidents of hate crime and hate speech, and provides funding for training of public officials and for actions against racism and xenophobia. Moreover, EU legislation is in place to ensure that victims of hate crime get the help, support and protection they need.”

The statement also recalls the organisation of the [first Annual Colloquium on Fundamental Rights](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/events/colloquium-fundamental-rights-2015/index_en.htm), which will be held on 1st and 2nd October 2015 in Brussels and focus on antisemitism and anti-Muslim hatred in the EU.

## Disability

**European Parliament: adoption of a written declaration on accessible tourism**

On 24th July, 380 Members of the European Parliament adopted a [written declaration on accessible tourism.](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2f%2fEP%2f%2fNONSGML%2bWDECL%2bP8-DCL-2015-0015%2b0%2bDOC%2bPDF%2bV0%2f%2fEN) The declaration calls on the European Commission to raise awareness among economic operators and other stakeholders on the need to increase accessibility for travelers.

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## Other

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**No Hate Speech Movement: European Action Day for Victims of Hate Crime**

22nd July 2015 marked the 4th anniversary of the attacks on Oslo and Utoya in Norway. To commemorate this day, the Council of Europe’s No Hate Speech Movement, ran the **European Action Day for Victims of Hate Crime**. This Action Day aims to commemorate the victims of the attacks, give voice to the victims and raise public awareness about hate crime and hate speech. It also aims to gain the political support for the recognition of the European Day for Victims of Hate Crime. More information is available [here](http://blog.nohatespeechmovement.org/european-action-day-for-victims-of-hate-crime/).

# New resources, funding opportunities and events

## General information

**Event: European Commission Annual Legal Seminar on gender equality and anti-discrimination law, Brussels, Tuesday 24th November 2015**

The seminar is organised in cooperation with the European Network of Legal Experts in gender equality and non-discrimination. The purpose of the seminar is to **provide an update on issues concerning the implementation of the EU non-discrimination and gender equality Directives**. It will bring together representatives of national governments, national equality bodies, experts from the Network of Legal Experts in gender equality and non-discrimination, representatives of NGOs and Commission officials. It will assess current legal developments and look to future prospects in the area of anti-discrimination and gender equality.

In addition to plenary sessions, there will be **five parallel workshops** on the following topics:

1. Update on European case Law   
2. Reasonable accommodation in employment   
3. Laws to facilitate work-life balance for working parents   
4. Disability law outside employment with particular regard to reasonable accommodation   
5. Istanbul Convention on combating and preventing violence against women

## Gender Equality

* **European Commission -** [**Report**](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/events/future-of-gender-equality-2015/files/report_forum_gender_equality_en.pdf)**:** Forum on the Future of Gender Equality in the European Union (held in Brussels on 20th and 21st April 2015)
* **European Commission** - [**Call for proposals**](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/grants1/calls/2015_action_grants/just_2015_rdap_ag_sexv_en.htm): Daphne call - Action grants to support transnational projects to combat sexual harassment and sexual violence against women (Deadline: 13th October 2015)
* **European Institute for Gender Equality -** [**Procurement**](http://eige.europa.eu/about-eige/procurement/eige-2015-oper-20): Study on the economic benefits of gender equality in the European Union (Deadline: 14th August 2015)

## Race/ethnic origin

* **European Commission -** [**Call for tenders**](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/contracts/2015_239895_en.htm)**:** Pilot project — capacity building for Roma civil society and strengthening its involvement in the monitoring of national Roma integration strategies (Deadline: 9th October 2015)
* **European Commission -** [**Action grants**](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/grants1/calls/2015_action_grants/just_2015_rdis_ag_nrcp_en.htm)**:** Restricted call (Member-States) to support MS activities to promote Roma integration (Deadline: 10th September 2015)
* **Council of Europe - European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) -** [Annual Report 2014](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/Library/PressReleases/197-09_07_2015_AnnualReport2014_en.asp)
* **Council of Europe - European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)** -[**Study**](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/activities/48-Seminar_national_specialised_bodies_2014/Study%20-%20Niall%20Crowley%20-%20with%20cover%20page.pdf)“Cooperation for effectiveness: local authorities and national specialised bodies combating racism and intolerance”

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## Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

* **Council of Europe -** [**Online database**](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/lgbt/default_EN.asp): Good practices and promising policies on combatting discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity (SOGI)

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## Disability

* **FRA – European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights Agency** – [**Website**](http://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2015/eu-crpd-framework-site-launched): EU Framework for the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

# Recent case-law

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## Court of Justice of the European Union (ECJ)

* **Judgment in Case C-153/14 Minister van Buitenlandse Zaken v K and A (9th July 2015)**

Member States may require third country nationals to pass a civic integration examination prior to family reunification. Press release and judgement available [here](http://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2015-07/cp150078en.pdf).

* **Judgment in Case C-83/14 - CHEZ Razpredelenie Bulgaria AD v Komisia za zashtita ot diskriminatsia (16th July 2015)**

The installation of electricity meters at an inaccessible height in a district densely populated by Roma is liable to constitute discrimination on the grounds of ethnic origin when such meters are installed in other districts at a normal height. Press release and judgement available [here](http://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2015-07/cp150084en.pdf).

* **Judgment in Case C-222/14 - Konstantinos Maïstrellis v Ypourgos Dikaiosynis, Diafaneias kai Anthropinon Dikaiomaton (16th July 2015)**

By prohibiting a male civil servant whose wife does not work from taking parental leave, Greek legislation is incompatible with EU law. Press release and judgement available [here](http://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2015-07/cp150089en.pdf).

## European Court of Human Rights (ECHR)

* **Martzaklis and Others v. Greece – 9th July 2015**

The European Court of Human Rights held, unanimously, that there had been a violation of **Article 3** (prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment) taken alone and in conjunction with **Article 14** (prohibition of discrimination) of the Convention of the European Convention on Human Rights and a violation of **Article 13** (right to an effective remedy) of the Convention. Link to the press release and judgement available [here](http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/webservices/content/pdf/003-5129513-6330931).

* **Oliari and others v. Italy – 21st July 2015**

The European Court of Human Rights stated that Italy breached the European Convention of Human Rights by not providing any legal form of recognition of same-sex partnerships. **This is the first time the European Court of Human Rights states that legal recognition of same-sex unions (civil union or registered partnership) should be available to same-sex couples.** Link to the judgement is available [here](http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/sites/eng/pages/search.aspx?i=001-156265).