

**Dear Equinet Members,**

This Members’ Bulletin gathers **the main Equinet internal updates, with the objectives of giving you a clearer overview of Equinet activities**. 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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# Equinet 2015 Board Elections: Launch of the Call for Candidates (Deadline: 8th September 2015)



The Chair of the Equinet Executive Board and the Executive Director of the Equinet Secretariat hereby call upon all Equinet member organisations to consider **nominating a candidate for the election of the new Executive Board** (maximum one per member organisation). The nine members of the next Equinet Board will be elected by secret ballot for a two-year mandate (October 2015-October 2017) by the General Assembly of Equinet Members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on **Friday 9 October 2015 in Brussels**.

**What is expected from Equinet member organisations?**

* Member organisations are all invited to informally communicate their intention regarding the possible nomination of a candidate by using the [Online Declaration of Interest form](http://form.jotformpro.com/form/51412314184950) (Deadline: **1st July 2015**).
* It is also possible for interested member organisations that have already selected a candidate to submit the full candidacy information through the **Candidate Nomination Form** (Deadline: **8th September 2015**).

The **Candidate Nomination Form** and the **Equinet Board Elections Guide 2015** are attached to the email which was sent on **Friday 22th May 2015** to Equinet Contact Persons and Heads of Equality Bodies.

The call is also available on [Equinet’s online Members’ Area](http://www.equineteurope.org/-EQUINET-2015-BOARD-ELECTIONS-).

For more information about the Equinet Board elections, **please do not hesitate to contact the Equinet Secretariat** (Yannick Godin, Administration and Finance Officer – [Yannick.godin@equineteurope.org](mailto:Yannick.godin@equineteurope.org) – 0032 2 212 31 82).

# Reminder: Register to Equinet Seminar “Charting the Charter – Equality Bodies and Fundamental Rights in the EU” (16 and 17 June 2015, Brussels, Belgium)

**Deadline for registration:** 03 June 2015

On 16-17 June 2015 in Brussels, Equinet is organising a Seminar on the **Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU**.

This Equinet seminar is dedicated to the role and importance of the Charter in safeguarding fundamental rights, ensuring equality and combating discrimination and it will have a particular focus on the practical use and benefits of the Charter for equality bodies.

This Equinet seminar is dedicated to an audience of approximately **50 staff members of equality bodies** with responsibilities in dealing with case work and legal strategy. The training programme is designed primarily for staff members with a legal background.

**More information, including draft agenda, is available on** [**Equinet’s website**](http://www.equineteurope.org/Charting-the-Charter-Equality)**.**

Registration should be done via [this link](https://adobeformscentral.com/?f=QwsjwmXYU56KGtCfHUL-eQ) **by 3 June 2015.**

# Register to Equinet Seminar on Work-Life Balance and Pregnancy and Parenthood-related Discrimination (1 and 2 July 2015, Tallinn, Estonia)

**Deadline for registration:** 08 June 2015

Equinet’s Seminar ‘**Work-Life Balance and Pregnancy and Parenthood related Discrimination**’ is the continuation of Equinet’s Policy Perspective ‘[Equality Bodies Promoting a Better Work-Life Balance For All](http://www.equineteurope.org/Equality-Bodies-promoting-a-better)’ issued in 2013 and Equinet’s 2015 Work Plan.

The seminar draws its focus from the work of Equality Bodies and Equinet related to work-life balance and pregnancy/parenthood-related discrimination.

The Seminar will consist of panel discussions with invited speakers and workshops designed for staff members of equality bodies.

More information is available [here](http://www.equineteurope.org/Work-Life-Balance-and-Pregnancy).

Registration should be done via [this link](http://form.jotformpro.com/form/51321768378967) **by 8 June 2015.**

# Head of Germany’s equality body calls for the swift adoption of the European equal treatment legislation proposal

Die Welt, one of the main German newspapers, has published an op-ed article by **Christine Lüders, Director** **of the Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency of Germany** and **active Equinet member**. Following increasing examples of discriminatory and homophobic acts across Europe, she highlights the **lack of protection** for LGBTI people, as well as people with disabilities, seniors and members of religious minorities, across EU Member States **under current European laws**.

According to C. Lüders, **"The situation is absurd: The federal [German] government refuses to hold concrete negotiations on a new Equal Treatment Directive, which would guarantee many people in Europe the same level of protection that German citizens have had for a long time now”.**

* Read [Die Welt article](http://www.welt.de/print/die_welt/debatte/article141044899/Deutschland-steht-alleine.html) “Germany stands alone” (in German)
* Read [Equinet summary](http://www.equineteurope.org/Head-of-Germany-s-Equality-Body) of the article (in English)
* [Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency](http://www.antidiskriminierungsstelle.de/EN/Home/home_node.html) Website

# The Equality Commission for Northern Ireland welcomes the judgement in the “Bert and Ernie Gay Cake” case

“The District Judge found that the Defendants had unlawfully discriminated against Gareth Lee on grounds of sexual orientation, religious belief and political opinion. She gave judgment in favour of Mr. Lee, a civil servant from Belfast, and damages were agreed at the sum of £500“.

More information about the case is available on the [Equality Commission for Northern Ireland’s website](http://www.equalityni.org/Footer-Links/News/Individuals/Court-rules-cake-case-was-discrimination).

# REMINDER: Online Directory – Information Forms (Deadline: As soon as possible!)

Only 24 Members have filled out the form for the Online Directory so far. In order to launch the Directory as soon as possible, the online form should be filled out **as soon as possible** and is available [here](http://www.equineteurope.org/spip.php?page=membersdata).

# Send us information for the next Spotlight Newsletter (Deadline: 19th June 2015)

Regular Equinet **external newsletters** publicise relevant developments in the field of equality in Europe as well as highlight the lasts news from Equinet, its members, European Institutions and other European Stakeholders. In particular, the Spotlight newsletter highlights latest news from Equinet members and is sent quarterly to our external subscribers.

The first 2015 Spotlight Newsletter is available [here](http://us4.campaign-archive1.com/?u=ca7cb0e9cba4eeb79c4db1929&id=1e2c994e07).

At the end of June, we will send out our second Spotlight newsletter of the year. If you have any information that you would wish to include in the Spotlight newsletter, **please send it on to Sarah Cooke O’Dowd by Friday 19th June** ([Sarah.cookeodowd@equineteurope.org](mailto:Sarah.cookeodowd@equineteurope.org)).

# Save the date!

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| **Working Groups Meetings**  **Tuesday 26th May:** Communications Working Group (Brussels, Belgium)  **Thursday 28th May:** Gender Equality Working Group (Brussels, Belgium) | **Capacity-Building Events**  **Tuesday 16th & Wednesday 17th June:** Seminar “Charting the Charter” (Brussels, Belgium)  **Wednesday 1st and Thursday 2nd July**: Work-Life Balance Seminar (Tallinn, Estonia) |
| **Governance Meetings**  **Thursday 17th September: Board** Meeting (Brussels, Belgium)  **Friday 9th September:** Annual General Meeting & Board Elections (Brussels, Belgium) | **Other meetings (on invitation only)**  **Monday 1st June:** First meeting of the Evaluation Lab (Brussels, Belgium)  **Wednesday 16th September:** Second Meeting of Equinet Cluster on Standards (Brussels, Belgium) |