

BOARD CANDIDATE NOMINATION FORM - EQUINET AGM ELECTIONS 2017

Please return this form to:

Anne Gaspard

Equinet Executive Director

By email: Anne.Gaspard@equineteurope.org

or regular mail: Rue Royale 138, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

Deadline for nominations: 13th September 2017

Name of the Equality Body	Defender of Rights (<i>Défenseur des droits</i>)
Country:	France
Name of Candidate: (First name SURNAME)	Valérie FONTAINE
Position in the Member organisation:	Adviser for Partnerships and Public relations
Contact Email:	Valerie.fontaine@defenseurdesdroits.fr
Telephone:	00.33.1.53.29.22.97
Year of joining Member Organisation in your country:	2011

Please note that a candidacy form will only be valid with page 2 (overleaf) fully completed and accompanied by a CV/profile in English. Please hand-sign and date the form below.

The Secretariat will also need to receive a picture of the candidate (see page 4 of Elections guide).

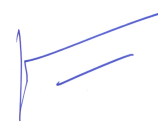
Your CV/profile may contain only information that you deem relevant to the position of Board Member (e.g. professional experience) and is **NOT required to include personal data (e.g. date of birth, personal address)**

Date: 13/09/17

Signature of the candidate:



Signature of the Head of the Organisation in case different from the candidate:



My motivation for becoming a member of the Equinet Executive Board: *(please explain why you would like to sit on the Equinet Executive Board)*

I would be honoured and proud to represent the French Defender of Rights in the Equinet Executive Board for two main reasons.

Firstly, I would like to share with Equinet members my professional experience recalling Equinet values and missions:

- I have a deep knowledge of national independent institutions and their networks, at national and international levels. When I was in charge of international affairs and human rights for the French Ombudsman, I represented the institution at meetings and seminars organised by the European Ombudsman and many other counterparts and international organisations (UN, Council of Europe etc). In charge of several capacity building support missions, I contributed to the setting up of new Ombudsmen (e.g., Albania) and to the strengthening of their independence and efficiency.
- I have been working on anti-discrimination field for the last 13 years, starting with the contribution to the implementation in France of Directive 200/43/CE. Being Chief of staff of the High authority against discriminations and for equality and now working within the Defender of Rights (in the direction in charge of anti-discrimination) allowed me to observe the evolution of the anti-discrimination law and case law, the growing awareness of potential victims of all types of discriminations as well as the change in practices in employment, housing, education, access to goods and services.

Secondly, as many European countries are dealing with multiple challenges (nationalism, terrorism etc.) that are affecting fundamental rights in general and Equality in particular, we need more than ever organisations such as NEB and Equinet. Coordination and dialogue between Equality Bodies at European level is essential to make the non-discrimination law effective rather than at risk. If we want more equal societies, we need to work together to contribute to national and European Equality agenda. That is why I wish to actively participate, in the name of the Defender of Rights, to the development of 10 years old Equinet.

Additional note or other relevant information relating to your application (if any):

Regarding Equinet strategic goals and Defender of Rights' current activities in the field of promotion of Equality, I would be happy to contribute to the building of the Strategic Plan 2019-2022 by proposing new areas of interest and new working methods.

As education is an efficient way to prevent discriminations and promote Equality, and as today's children are preparing the future of our societies, Equinet could contribute to the education of young people by developing new tools with new partners.

I believe in Europe, whatever the challenges it is facing today. I grew up in a European environment in Brussels and, back in France, I was a proactive member of the board of the Young Europeans association while studying law and in particular human rights and anti-discrimination law. I then founded a French-Italian family and keep on teaching European values to our children.

Please note that your candidacy information will be made available to Members prior to the AGM and access to this information will be restricted to Equinet Members only.