

# Equinet 10th Anniversary - Draft Agenda

Tuesday 10th October 2017

Les Brigittines, Brussels, Belgium



## Conference

### Together for an Equal Europe



**10:00 - 10:30** Registration

**10:30 - 11:00** Welcome and Opening

Evelyn Collins, Equinet Chair & Chief Executive of the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

**11:00 - 13:00** Promoting equality in a challenging environment

**Keynote** Frans Timmermans, First Vice-President of the European Commission

**View from Equality Bodies**

Adam Bodnar, Commissioner for Human Rights, Poland

Evelyn Collins, Equinet Chair & Chief Executive of the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

**View**

**from National Level**

Anna-Maja Henriksson, MP and Former Minister for Justice (2011-2015), Finland

Koen Geens, Minister of Justice, Belgium (TBC)

Rositsa Todorova Dimitrova, Deputy Minister for Labour and Social policy, Bulgaria (TBC)

**13:00 - 14:30** Networking Lunch

**14:30 - 16:30** Visions for the future - Prospects & challenges for equality bodies

Virginija Langbakk, Director, European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)

MEP Claude Moraes, Chair of the LIBE Committee, European Parliament

Nils Muižnieks, Commissioner for Human Rights, Council of Europe (video address)

Michael O'Flaherty, Director, EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)

Birgit Van Hout, Regional Representative for Europe, UN Human Rights Office (UN OHCHR)

**View from Equality Bodies**

Constance Rivière, Secretary General of the Defender of Rights, France

Tena Šimonović Einwalter, Deputy Ombudswoman, Croatia

**16:30 - 16:45** Concluding Remarks

Anne Gaspard, Executive Director, Equinet

## Reception

### Anniversary celebrations

**18:30 - 23:00**

**Keynote** Věra Jourová, EU Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality

Drinks, buffet and entertainment

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## Background

### Together for an Equal Europe

Since 2007, Equinet has been promoting equality in Europe by supporting and enabling the work of national equality bodies.

It supports equality bodies to be independent and effective as valuable catalysts for more equal societies.

During the past decade, we have grown from a project-based set-up to become the recognised **European Network of Equality Bodies**, with **46 national equality bodies in 34 European countries**.

The national and European context in which equality bodies have evolved has changed a lot over the past 10 years, from key legislative achievements to greater economic and social challenges. During this conference, **we aim to take stock of the progress made and the contribution of equality bodies in addressing the developments over the past decade, particularly on non-discrimination in Europe.**

In particular, it will focus on:

- **Main achievements and challenges for Equinet and national equality bodies** over the last decade,
- **Future scenarios for equality, the work of national equality bodies and stakeholders in a shrinking space for fundamental rights.**

We hope to bring together all those with whom we have worked and collaborated over the years, to look at the past, present and especially the future, in order to explore ways forward and possible steps to enhance equality bodies' contribution for an equal Europe.

Register to the 10th anniversary conference and reception [here](#).

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