



RENEWAL OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF EQUINET – THE EUROPEAN NETWORK OF EQUALITY BODIES

MANDATE 2019 – 2021

CANDIDATE NOMINATION FORM

Please return this form to:

Anne Gaspard
Executive Director
Equinet Secretariat

By email: Anne.Gaspard@equineteurope.org
or regular mail: Rue Royale 138, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

Deadline for nominations: 18th September 2019

Name of the Equality Body and country	Defender of Rights- France
Name of Candidate: <i>(First name Family Name)</i>	Valérie Fontaine
Position in the Member organisation:	Adviser for partnerships
Contact Email:	Valerie.fontaine@defenseurdesdroits.fr
Telephone:	00.33.(0).53.29.22.97

Please note that a nomination form will only be considered valid if it includes pages 1 and 2 fully completed and accompanied by a Resume/profile of the candidate in English.

The form also needs to be hand-sign and dated by the nominated candidate and the Head of the Member Organisation (if different).

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

1. My motivation for becoming a member of the Equinet Executive Board:

I would be honoured and happy to represent, for a second personal mandate, the French Defender of Rights in the Equinet Executive Board for three 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. Without these two conditions, our institutions cannot be useful for the victims of discriminations, and that is why the recommendation on standards for equality bodies, finally adopted last year by the European Commission, is so important.
- I have been working on anti-discrimination field for the last 15 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 the promotion of Equality) 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.


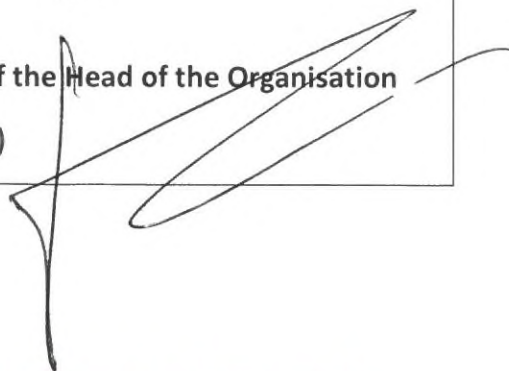
Secondly, as many European countries are more and more dealing with multiple challenges that are affecting fundamental rights in general and Equality in particular, we need more than ever organisations such as NEBs and Equinet. Coordination and dialogue between Equality Bodies at European level is essential 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 renew my participation, in the name of the Defender of Rights, to the development of Equinet as a tool for the support of our NEBs.

Thirdly, I think that two years in the previous board were not enough to be able to fulfil my mission: time flies and many things remain to be done!

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

I still 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.

Within the Equinet Strategic Plan 2019-2022 we adopted recently, I wish to contribute in particular to projects engaging young Europeans to be more active and proactive in support of equality, as education is an efficient way to prevent discriminations and promote Equality, and as today's children are preparing the future of our societies.

Date: 16/09/19	Signature of the candidate:  Signature of the Head of the Organisation (if different) 
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Please note that your candidacy information will be communicated to all Equinet Members prior to the AGM