

## Equinet Roundtable Stronger Together: Implementing the EC LGBTIQ Strategy

**31 March 2021**

### Concept note

On November 2020, the European Commission adopted its first-ever LGBTIQ Strategy. This ambitious policy document is a major landmark for the protection of LGBTIQ people all over the European Union. It contains important commitments and proposals for achieving LGBTIQ equality, including on key topics such as access to health, artificial intelligence, parenthood recognition between Member States, and intersectionality. The Strategy also identifies equality bodies as essential actors for ensuring that discrimination against LGBTIQ people is tackled, while stating that EU legislation might be introduced in 2022 to strengthen their role.

An important next step for the Strategy will be to ensure its effective implementation. Strategic collaboration between stakeholders will be key, including EU institutions, Member States, civil society and equality bodies. This online roundtable will explore how to best collaborate for a successful implementation of the LGBTIQ Strategy, in order to achieve equality for gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans, intersex and queer people in the European Union.

### OBJECTIVES

This event aims to:

- Identify the role equality bodies can play for implementing the LGBTIQ Strategy;
- Identify how equality bodies, civil society, national authorities and European institutions can cooperate to successfully implement the LGBTIQ Strategy.

### PARTICIPANTS

The roundtable is aimed at equality body staff, representatives of EU institutions & national authorities, and civil society organisations.

## Draft Agenda

### WELCOME

**10:00** Welcome & housekeeping

### SETTING THE SCENE

**10:05** Equality bodies & the LGBTIQ Strategy, an essential partnership  
Tena Šimonovic Einwalter, Deputy Ombudswoman of Croatia, Chair of Equinet

Q&A

### SESSION 1: *Litigating for LGBTIQ Equality*

<b>10:25</b>	<p><b>A story of strategic litigation – The Coman Case</b> National Council for Combatting Discrimination</p> <p><b>Reaction from civil society: Arpi Avetisyan</b>, Head of Litigation, ILGA Europe and ACCEPT</p> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>
<b>10:55</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>

### SESSION 2: *Defending LGBTIQ Equality in a challenging political context*

<b>11:05</b>	<p><b>A story of independence – LGBTIQ Equality in Poland</b> <b>Adam Bodnar</b>, Polish Commissioner for Human Rights</p> <p><b>Reaction from an MEP: Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield</b>, LGBTI Intergroup Member</p> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>
--------------	--

### SESSION 3: *Discussing collaboration*

<b>11:35</b>	<p>Panel discussion on collaborating for implementing the LGBTIQ Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Marc Angel</b>, MEP, LGBTI Intergroup Co-chair</li> <li>• <b>Katrin Hugendubel</b>, Advocacy Director, ILGA-Europe,</li> <li>• <b>Richard Köhler</b>, Senior Policy Officer, Transgender Europe</li> <li>• <b>Miha Lobnik</b>, Advocate for the Principle of Equality, Slovenia, Board Member of Equinet</li> <li>• <b>Szabolcs Schmidt</b>, Head of Unit, DG JUST, European Commission</li> <li>• <b>Tomas Vytautas Raskevičius</b>, Member of the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania, Chairperson of Human Rights Committee</li> <li>• <b>French Ministry Representative</b> (tbc)</li> </ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>
--------------	---

### CONCLUDING SESSION

<b>12:45</b>	<p><b>Helena Dalli</b>, European Commissioner for Equality</p> <p><b>Miha Lobnik</b>, Advocate for the Principle of Equality, Slovenia, Board Member of Equinet</p>
--------------	---