

Valérie Fontaine

Tel : +33 (0)6.10.74.98.53

E-mail : valerie.fontaine@defenseurdesdroits.fr

Experience

Defender of Rights	Paris	Since 2011
◆ Adviser for partnerships and public relations		Since 2015
◆ Project leader of the Educational programme Educadroit		2016-2018
◆ Committees' Permanent Secretary		Since 2011
◆ Equinet board member		Since 2017
High Authority Against Discrimination and For Equality	Paris	2004/2011
◆ Chief of staff		
◆ Member of the executive committee (since 2005)		
◆ Project manager for the preparation of the High Authority Against Discrimination and For Equality (2004-2005)		
French Ombudsman	Paris	1999/2004
◆ Legal adviser for International Affairs and Human Rights		
◆ Delegate of the AOMF's Chairman		
Association of Francophone's Ombudsmans and Mediators		
International Federation for Human Rights	Geneva	Trainee 1999
Jean Monnet Foundation for Europe	Lausanne	Trainee 1997
Representation in France of the European Commission	Paris	Trainee 1997

Education

Post-graduate degree in Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, obtained with distinction (University of Paris II-Panthéon)	Paris	2000
Master's degree in International Public law, obtained with distinction (Paris X-Nanterre and University of Milano: Erasmus exchange programme)	Paris/Milan	1999
Bachelor's degree (<i>Bi-DEUG</i>), French and English Law (Paris X Nanterre)	Paris	1997
European baccalaureate, European School	Brussels	1994

Civic engagement

German Marshall Fund of the United States	Fellow MMF	since 2009
Jean Monnet Foundation for Europe	Member	since 2004
Welcome Association (helping refugees)	Member	since 2018
Organic farming association-AMAP	Member	since 2015
School parent association	Member	since 2017
Young Europeans Association	Board Member	1995/1997

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

MANDATE 2021 – 2023

CANDIDATE NOMINATION FORM

Please return this form to:

Anne Gaspard
Executive Director
Equinet Secretariat

By email: Anne.Gaspard@equineteurope.org

Deadline for nominations: 22 October 2021

Name of the Equality Body and country	Defender of Rights
Name of Candidate: <i>(First name Family Name)</i>	Valérie Fontaine
Position in the Member organisation:	Adviser for partnerships and public relations
Contact Email:	Valerie.fontaine@defenseurdesdroits.fr
Telephone:	+33.(0)1.53.29.22.97

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:

(please explain why you would like to sit on the Equinet Executive Board)

Three is a magic number! After two mandates within Equinet board, a third and last one would ensure a continuity within this body, as several dear colleagues will leave the ship.

During those last four years, I really appreciated contributing to the development and implementation of Equinet strategies, working with the dream team of the so efficient Secretariat and representing the network at various international events.

I started working in the anti-discrimination field 17 years ago when participating to the setting up and consolidation of a French Equality body, and our office always worked closely with Equinet since it was founded. If much has been achieved at national and European level since then, I believe much remains to be done as Equality is always at risk, moreover after this Covid crisis.

Looking back, I see a growing network, with members contributing and benefiting from exchange of expertise and know-how, many initiatives on combatting structural and systemic discrimination and close cooperation with European institutions and civil society. At national level I observed 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.

Looking into the future, I see many positive outcomes such as the development of an EU legislation on standards which reflects our members' needs, a pay transparency directive, a strengthened coordination and dialogue between Equality Bodies to make the non-discrimination law effective.

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


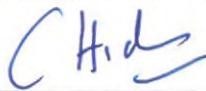
(any information about yourself and your achievement that you think is important for people who will have to consider the quality of your candidacy)

If I have the chance to be re-elected for a last mandate, I'll actively participate to the implementation of the 2022 work plan. It includes the continuation of a very useful work on artificial intelligence (topic on which I have worked particularly this past year), with a task force the French Defender of Rights will join, and new trainings from which all members should benefit. The research exploring the role and potential of Equality Bodies on responses to climate change in Europe will guide our institution on those challenges.

I will also be very active on the elaboration of the Equinet strategic plan 2023-2026, an occasion for a deep reflection on what our network is becoming, how it can do better, wishing that that all Equinet members will be able to contribute.

As France will hold the Council of the European Union presidency from 1 January to 30 June 2022 beginning the presidency trio it forms with the Czech Republic and Sweden, being within the Board at this time will allow me to enhance Equinet during events France will organise. We plan to have an important conference early June 2022, hoping to see a lot of Equinet members in Paris!

On a personal level, I still believe in Europe, whatever the challenges it is still facing today. I grew up in a European environment in Brussels and, back in France, I founded a French-Italian family and keep on teaching European values to our children. In my office and within Equinet, I remain involved in youth and equality issues, strongly convinced that we need to invest energy for a better future.

Date:15/10/21	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