

Equinet Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2024

Wednesday 16 October 2024 | 09:00 – 12:30

The Square, Rue Ravenstein 2, Brussels, Belgium

AGENDA (CET, Brussels time)

Registration

08.30 – 09.00 **Registration**

Opening and Introduction

09.15 – 09.20 **Welcome by Patrick Charlier, Chair of Equinet Board**

Session 1: Equinet 2024 review

Chair: Co-Director Anne Gaspard

09.20– 10.00 **Report on Equinet Activities**

- **Report on 2024 Work Plan implementation** – Patrick Charlier/Chair
- **Presentation of Standards Directives Digest / FADA Project** - Tamás Kádár, Co-Director, Equinet Secretariat
- **Report and update on Equinet Funding & Finance** – Rhoda Garland, Treasurer (Equinet Board Member)
- Q&A – Members' discussion

10.00 – 10.10 **Voting Part 1**

Members Vote on: DRAFT MINUTES AGM 2023
 ACCOUNTS 2023

Session 2: Looking forward - 2025 plans and Equinet governance

10.10 – 10.55 **Equinet 2025 Work Plan Proposal**

- **Proposed 2025 Equinet Work Plan & budget** - Patrick Charlier/Chair
- **Future perspectives on Equinet co-funding requirement, membership fees and social reserves**- Rhoda Garland, Treasurer (Equinet Board Member)
- **Equinet Leadership for Equality Hub**, Brief Highlight pilot plans

10.55 – 11.05 **Voting Part 2**

Members Vote on: AMENDMENT TO WORK PLAN (if applicable)
 EQUINET WORK PLAN 2025

11.05 – 11.25 **Coffee/Tea comfort break**



Session 3: Shaping the Future of Equality in Europe – Priorities ahead

Chair: Patrick Charlier, Chair of Equinet

11.25 – 12.25 **Shaping the future of equality in Europe through partnerships and cooperation**

- **Sirpa Rautio**, Director EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA)
- **Carlien Scheele**, Director European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)
- **Maria Jepsen**, Deputy Director of European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (EUROFOUND)
- Q&A – Members’ discussion

12.25 – 12.30 **Closing of AGM**

- **Closing remarks** – Anne Gaspard, Equinet Co-Director

12.30 – 14.00 **Networking Lunch**

Speakers

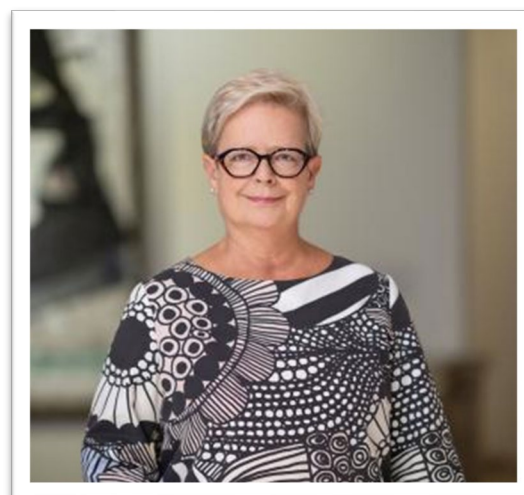
Sirpa Rautio

Director, EU Agency for Fundamental Rights

Sirpa Rautio is Director of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA). She started in March 2024. Previously, she was the first Director of the Finnish National Human Rights Institution, the Finnish Human Rights Centre that she established. She served as its Director from March 2012 until February 2024. She was also Chairperson of the European Network of Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI) from March 2022 until 2024.

Prior to returning to Finland in 2012, Sirpa worked abroad for some 20 years in expert and managerial positions in international organisations, including at the World Bank, the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the OSCE and the EU.

Sirpa was a member of the FRA's Management Board from 2015-2020 and Chairperson of the Board from 2017. She has worked on human rights and rule of law both in the field and at the headquarters. She has extensive experience working in post-conflict settings and countries in transition. Sirpa is a lawyer by profession, having graduated from the University of Turku, Finland.



Carlien Scheele

Director, European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)

At EIGE's helm since February 2020, she oversees the Institute's strategic programmes of activities and budgets. Ms Scheele aims to cement EIGE's position as the EU's knowledge centre on gender equality and deepen collaboration within and beyond Europe. Before taking up her post at EIGE, Ms Scheele worked as a Senior Gender Equality Adviser/Senior Human Resources Adviser in the Council of Europe, seconded from the Dutch government. Previously, she worked as the Director for Gender and LGBT Equality for the Dutch government, where she coordinated the national gender and LGBT equality policies.



Maria Jepsen

Deputy Director, Eurofound

Maria Jepsen is Eurofound's Deputy Director, appointed on 1 November 2019. She coordinates the programme development at Eurofound. Prior to this, she was Director of the research department at the European Trade Union Institute (ETUI), and assistant professor and research fellow at the Free University of Brussels (ULB). She is currently also associate professor in labour economics at ULB and external lecturer at the College of Europe in Brugge, Belgium. Her main research interests include gender studies, the impact of welfare states on labour supply, wages and working conditions, and the development of the European social dimension. Ms Jepsen has been a member of various committees, councils and advisory boards at national and international level on employment, social, gender and research issues. She has also served as a coordinator on the European Commission tripartite advisory committee on health and safety at work. She holds a PhD in Economics and a Master's degree in Econometrics from the Free University of Brussels (ULB).

