
Newsletter No. 14

Hamburg, 12 July 2004

Dear Partners and Friends,

On the occasion of the Annual Conference "Equal Rights in an Enlarged Union" for the participants of the Community Action Programme to combat discrimination 2004 in Prague, 5-6 July, I would like to inform you about some activities and publications of the department "Anti-discrimination, fundamental social rights and civil society", DG Employment and social affairs, in the context of the Community action programme to combat discrimination.

At the two days Conference experts from different countries informed about:

- the implementation of the Article 13 directives for equal treatment in employment and occupation and equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin in the EU-member states
- promotion and enforcement of non-discrimination legislation in Europe
- Promotion of better awareness and knowledge on the rights and obligations contained the Article 13
- Reinforcement of the capacity of all actors to promote effectively and efficiently non-discrimination issues
- process and progress of the Community Action Programme to combat discrimination

Most activities are documented in the different publications mentioned below. You will hopefully find an appropriate and interesting holiday reading in the list!

I would like to highlight the Green paper "Equality and non-discrimination in an enlarged European Union" and the European Commission's invitation to react individually on the Green Paper. The results of the consultation should help to shape the European Commission's future policy strategy with regard to non-discrimination and equal treatment.

If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Anne

Green Paper “Equality and non-discrimination in an enlarged European Union” (May 2004)

Since five years the European Union gives huge impetus to the fight against discrimination in the European Union. The Green Paper sets out the European Commission's analysis of the progress that has been made so far. It seeks views about how the EU can continue and reinforce its efforts to combat discrimination and to promote equal treatment.

This Green Paper takes stock of what the EU has done during the last five years to combat discrimination and to promote equal treatment. It looks at how these initiatives relate to other policy developments at European and international levels. It examines new challenges that have emerged in recent years, including those linked to the enlargement of the EU. It assesses the implications of this changing context for policy development in the field of non-discrimination and equal treatment. The paper deals with:

- Issues linked to enlargement
- Implementing the legal framework
- Improving data collection
- Reinforcing co-operation with stakeholders
- Integrating the principle of non-discrimination into other political areas

Responses to this Green Paper are appreciated and will be collected principally using an online questionnaire. The public consultation period begins on 1 June 2004 and ends on 31 August 2004. It is available at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/fundamental_rights/greenpaper_en.htm

The **Newsletter “Equal Rights in Practice”** from spring 2004 informs you about the priorities and key activities of the Community Action Programme to combat discrimination in 2004.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/fundamental_rights/pdf/pubdocs/newsletter1_04_en.pdf

Studies

- **Study “The costs and benefits of diversity” (November 2003)**

Study on methods and indicators to measure the cost-effectiveness of diversity policies in enterprises

- **Study „Equality, Diversity and Enlargement” (October 2003)**

As the second deadline in 2003 approaches for putting EU rules on anti-discrimination into national law, the Commission is publishing independent research on legislation in candidate countries regarding discrimination on the grounds of racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age and sexual orientation. The study shows that there has been progress, but there is still work to be done if the candidates are to comply with the Directives by 1 May 2004.

- **Study on antidiscrimination bodies (May 2002)**

The study presents an analysis and examples of the experiences of twenty one existing bodies for the promotion of equality and fighting discrimination from across the EU, drawing on examples from twelve Member States. It also gives information on how a range of existing bodies have been set up and makes recommendations to the Member States for the future.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/fundamental_rights/prog/studies_en.htm

Further Information

Website of the **Conference „Equal Rights in an Enlarged Union“**

Annual Conference for the participants of the Community Action Programme to combat discrimination 2004 in Prague, 5-6 July 2004:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/fundamental_rights/events/prag04_en.htm

Website of the **EU-department “Anti-discrimination, fundamental rights and civil society:**

http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/fundamental_rights/index_en.htm

Information on the **Article 13 Directives**

- Council Directive 2000/78/EC establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation (27/11/00)
- Council Directive 2000/43/EC implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin (29/06/00)

Both directives should have been implemented in national law until the end of 2003, in the new member states until May 2004:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/fundamental_rights/legis/legIn_en.htm

The **European campaign “For Diversity. Against Discrimination”:**

<http://www.stop-discrimination.info>

Steps – Structures towards emancipation, participation and solidarity

c/o University of Applied Sciences for Social Work
Horner Weg 21, D – 22111 Hamburg
www.eu-project-steps.de, aernst@rauheshaus.de