



Joint Conference

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS, NON-DISCRIMINATION AND THE PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS, INCLUDING LGBTI

Members of the Pre-Accession Countries' Parliaments
and the European Parliament

in cooperation with

Italian Presidency of the Council of the EU
and
European Commission

Tirana
20-21 November 2014

Meeting location: Sheraton Hotel, Sheshi Italia, Tirana 1000 (tbc)

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Thursday 20 November 2014

15:00 – 19:30 *Secretariat: Organisational and logistical preparations*

20.00-22.00 **Dinner offered by the European Parliament**

Friday 21 November 2014

08:15-09:00 *Arrival and registration of the participants*

Chaired by MEP

09:00 – 09:15 **Opening session**

Introductory speeches by:

Mr Ilir Meta, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Albania (tbc)

Ms Ulrike Lunacek, Vice-President of the European Parliament for Western Balkans (tbc)

Mr Erion Velliaj, Minister of Social Affairs of the Republic of Albania (tbc)

09.15 - 09.40 **Keynote Speeches - The EU role in ensuring non-discrimination and the protection of minorities in general**

Amb. Gianludovico de Martino di Montegiordano, President of the Interministerial Committee for Human Rights (CIDU), Italian Presidency of the Council of the EU (tbc)

Mr Simon Mordue, Director, Enlargement Policy and Strategy, European Commission (tbc)

MEP, Member of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (tbc)

- 09:40 - 10.20** **The EU anti-discrimination legislation with respect to all minorities**
- MEP, Member of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (tbc)
- Member of the Danish Parliament (tbc)
- DG Justice, European Commission (tbc)
- Questions and debate**
- 10.20 - 10.35** **Coffee break / Press Point**
- 10.35 - 11:15** **Safeguarding Fundamental Rights and respect for minorities within and outside the EU**
- European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (tbc)
- Ms Eleni Theocharous**, MEP, Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs
- MEP, Member of the Sub-Committee on Human Rights
- Questions and debate**
- 11.15 - 12.30** **Non-discrimination - The civil society assessment covering aspects of discrimination, freedom of assembly and expression, situation of media and internet for all minorities**
- Amnesty International (tbc)
- Commissioner for Protection of Equality of Serbia (tbc)
OR
Ombudsman of Bosnia and Herzegovina (tbc)
- Questions and debate**
- 12.30 - 14.00** **Official lunch offered by the European Commission**
- 14.00 - 14.45** **The European Parliament, the Council of Europe and civil society role in the protection of the fundamental rights with respect to sexual orientation and gender identity in Western Balkans and Turkey**
- Ms Ulrike Lunacek**, Vice-President of the European Parliament for

Western Balkans, former rapporteur (2014) on homophobia and discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity (Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs) (tbc)

Member of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (tbc)

Ms Evelyne Paradis, Executive Director, ILGA Europe (tbc)

Ms Xheni Karaj, Director, Aleanca against Discrimination, NGO, Albania

Questions and debate

14.45 - 15.30 **Safeguarding the fundamental rights of citizens, including LGBTI, in practice**

Mr Jovan Kojicic, Anti-Discrimination Advisor to the Prime Minister, Prime Minister's Office, Montenegro (tbc)

Member of Parliament (from one of the Parliaments of the region) (tbc)

Questions and debate

15.30 - 15.45 **Coffee break**

15.45 - 16.45 **The role of the media in breaking stereotypes and changing attitudes**

Ms Günseli Dum, **LISTAG** - voluntary support and solidarity group for families and friends of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans people in Turkey (Istanbul branch) (tbc)

Mr Srdjan Dragojevic, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia and director of 'Parada' movie (tbc)

16.45 - 17.15 **Closing remarks by the Chair**

End of the conference