

Statement

Political groups remain committed to the Anti-Discrimination Directive

Strasbourg, 2 July 2013

Today marks five years since the European Commission published a proposal for a *Council Directive on implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation*. This proposal is meant to protect citizens from discrimination on those grounds to the same extent that they are already protected on grounds of sex and racial or ethnic origin in areas outside of employment.

While a small number of Member States have expressed high-level reservations of a political nature, we acknowledge that ten successive Council presidencies have made every effort to advance technical discussions of this proposal.

We recognise the issues at stake are sensitive, and need careful consideration by governments. The European Parliament will also need to consent to the Directive as adopted by the Council.

Regardless of any reserves expressed so far, we reiterate our engagement that citizens in the European Union must be protected from discrimination based on religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, and we encourage the Council of the European Union to continue its technical and political work on this proposal.

Raül Romeva i Rueda and Judith Sargentini MEPs

European Parliament Rapporteur (Greens/EFA)

Greens/EFA Spokesperson on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

Véronique Mathieu-Houillon MEP

EPP Shadow Rapporteur

EPP Spokesperson on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

Emine Bozkurt and Claude Moraes MEPs

S&D Shadow Rapporteur

S&D Spokesperson on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

Sophie in 't Veld and Renate Weber MEPs

ALDE Shadow Rapporteur

ALDE Spokesperson on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

Dennis de Jong and Kyriacos Triantaphyllides MEPs

GUE/NGL Shadow Rapporteur

GUE/NGL Spokesperson on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs