



Hadja Lahbib

Member of the European Commission

Rob Beenders, Minister of Consumer Protection, the fight against Social Fraud, Persons with Disabilities and Equal Opportunities, Belgium;

Erkki Keldo, Minister of Economic Affairs and Industry, Estonia;

Aurore Bergé, Minister for equality and the fight against discrimination, France;

Domna Michailidou, Minister of Social Cohesion and Family Affairs, Greece;

Norma Foley, Minister for Children, Disability and Equality, Ireland;

Inga Ruginienė, Minister of Social Security and Labour, Lithuania;

Rebecca Buttigieg, Parliamentary Secretary for Equality and Reforms, Malta;

Judith Uitermark, Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, Netherlands;

Katarzyna Kotula, Minister for Equality, Poland;

Margarida Balseiro Lopes, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport, Portugal;

Petre-Florin Manole, Minister of Labour, Family, Youth and Social Solidarity, Romania;

Luka Mesec, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Slovenia

Brussels, 11. 12. 2025

Dear Ministers,

Thank you for your joint letter of 1 July 2025 calling upon the Commission to reconsider its intention to withdraw the 2008 proposal for a Council Directive on implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation within six months.

With the first work programme of the mandate, the Commission had thoroughly assessed all proposals currently pending with the co-legislators. As a result of this assessment, the Commission put forward a list of 37 proposals it intended to withdraw. This included the proposal for a Council Directive on equal treatment.

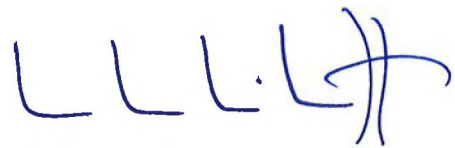


I am pleased to inform you that, having considered the supportive position expressed by the European Parliament and by a large majority of Member States in the Council, the Commission has decided to maintain the proposal for the equal treatment directive for further discussion. This was confirmed through the publication in the Official Journal of the European Union of [6 October 2025](#).

I wish to emphasise that the Commission listed the proposal for the equal treatment directive among the priority legislative files in its [2026 Work Programme](#), adopted on 21 October 2025.

As set out in the Political Guidelines, the Commission is fully committed to building a Union of Equality. We will therefore continue to support the Council Presidency and the Member States with all possible means to help find an agreement on this important proposal.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a final flourish, representing the name Hadja Lahbib.

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