

# Equinet Conference

## *Taking Action for Gender Equality*

Monday – 23 March 2015

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>VENUE</b>           | Residence Palace, Polak Room, Rue de la Loi 155, Brussels, Belgium  |
| <b>OBJECTIVES</b>      | <p>This Conference aims to share equality bodies' expertise on gender equality with EU level stakeholders, as well as facilitating discussions on future strategic priorities and tools in the field of gender equality. More concretely, we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present the preliminary findings of the Equinet <i>Perspective</i> on the work of equality bodies on gender equality and future strategic priorities.</li> <li>• Highlight equality bodies' experiences in the implementation of gender equality legislation and policies.</li> <li>• Provide a platform for discussion on key priorities, good practices and possible future developments at EU and national level.</li> <li>• Facilitate an exchange between equality bodies, EU institutions and stakeholders contributing to effective cooperation for the promotion of gender equality.</li> </ul> |
| <b>TARGET AUDIENCE</b> | The Conference is aimed at senior management and experts from national equality bodies, representatives of EU institutions and agencies, NGOs, policy or legal experts, social partners and other organisations active in the field of gender equality.   |
| <b>REGISTRATION</b>    | <p>Final date for online registrations is <b>11<sup>th</sup> March 2015</b>.</p> <p>For any information or clarification please do not hesitate to contact the Equinet Secretariat - Ilaria Volpe, Policy Officer on Gender Equality (Tel: +32 2 212 3186, <a href="mailto:ilaria.volpe@equineteurope.org">ilaria.volpe@equineteurope.org</a>) who will be pleased to assist.</p>   |
| <b>FOLLOW-UP</b>       | <p>Equinet will publish a summary report of the Conference and will upload the speakers' presentations on its website at:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="http://www.equineteurope.org/activities/events">www.equineteurope.org/activities/events</a></p> <p>In addition to visiting our <a href="#">website</a>, you can also follow the work done by Equinet and its 42 European member equality bodies by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subscribing to our <a href="#">monthly newsletter</a> from our homepage;</li> <li>• Following us on <a href="#">Facebook</a> (Facebook.com/EquinetEurope), <a href="#">Twitter</a> (@equineteurope), or join the "Equinet Europe" <a href="#">Linked-In group</a> if you work for a member organisation.</li> </ul>  |



# AGENDA

08.30 - **Registration and Welcome**  
09.00

**09.00-09.20** **Opening speech:**  
**Evelyn Collins - Chair of Equinet, Chief Executive of the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland**

**09.20-09.45** **Keynote Address**  
**Věra Jourová - Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality, European Commission**

**09.45 – 11.00** **SESSION 1 – Mainstreaming gender equality**  
This session will address the role equality bodies play in contributing to change in the functioning of public and private institutions, and areas for further development.  
**Chair: Petr Polák, Head of Department of Equal Treatment, Public Defender of Rights, Czech Republic**

Mainstreaming gender equality in Northern Ireland: implementing the statutory equality duty

**Darren McKinstry, Equality Commission for Northern Ireland**

Learnings from equality bodies' promotion and policy work, from Equinet *Perspective*

**Mari-Liis Sepper, Gender Equality and Equal Treatment Commissioner, Estonia**

What policy context is needed to enable mainstreaming gender equality?

**Agnès Hubert, College of Europe, former Adviser in the Bureau of European Policy Advisers (BEPA)**

**Questions & Answers – Discussion**

11.00-11.20

**Coffee break**

**11.20 – 12.35** **SESSION 2 – Litigating for change**  
This session will address the role equality bodies play in implementing and developing gender equality legislation, and areas for improvement.  
**Chair: Goran Selanec, Deputy Ombudsman, Office of the Ombudswoman for Gender Equality, Croatia**

Litigating for change in Sweden

**Martin Mörk, Equality Ombudsman, Sweden**

Learnings from equality bodies' legal work, from Equinet *Perspective*

**Kosana Beker, Commissioner for the Protection of Equality, Serbia**

What legal and policy context is needed to complete gender equality legislation and implement it?

**Dr. Snježana Vasiljević, Assistant Professor and Chair of European Public Law, University of Zagreb**

**Questions & Answers – Discussion**

12.35-13.40

**Lunch**

### SESSION 3 – Communication and awareness raising

13.40 –  
14.55

This session will address the role equality bodies play in raising awareness on structural gender inequality and its roots, improving rights awareness, as well as areas for improvement.

Chair: **Sandra Konstatzky, Deputy Director, Ombud for Equal Treatment, Austria**

Raising awareness in the Netherlands

**Carina van Eck, Commissioner, Netherlands Institute for Human Rights**

Learnings from equality bodies' work on raising awareness, from Equinet *Perspective*

**Thekla Demetriadou, Office of the Commissioner for Administration (Ombudsman), Cyprus**

What policy context is needed to enable awareness raising for gender equality?

**Jane Morrice, Vice-President, European Economic and Social Committee**

#### *Questions & Answers – Discussion*

14.55-  
15.10

*Coffee break*

### SESSION 4 – Europe in 2020 – our vision for gender equality

15.10 –  
16.30

This session will close the seminar with visions of Europe in 2020, following five years of strategic work on gender equality.

Chair: **Daniela Bankier, Head of Gender Equality Unit, European Commission**

- **Evelyn Collins, Chair of Equinet, Chief Executive of the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland**
- **Joanna Maycock, Secretary General, European Women's Lobby**
- **Virginija Langbakk, Director, European Institute for Gender Equality**

#### *Questions & Answers – Discussion*

16.30 –  
17.00

**Closing of the seminar**

*Anne Gaspard – Executive Director, Equinet*