

Donald Tusk
Prime Minister
Al. Ujazdowskie 1/3
00-583 Warszawa
Poland

Brussels, 1 June 2010

Re: New draft of equality legislation

Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing to acknowledge the recently presented new draft of anti-discrimination legislation which aims to implement into Polish legal system all the equality requirements laid down by EU legislation. We wish to encourage your support and commitment to ensure Polish legislation is fully harmonised with EU standards.

EQUINET is the European network of national equality bodies with membership from across the European Union and beyond. EQUINET aims to enhance cooperation between specialised equality bodies and seeks to act as a point of support to and development of national equality bodies in the implementation of their core functions as defined in the anti-discrimination EU Directives 2000/43/EC, 2002/73/EC and 2004/113/EC.

We are pleased to learn that your Government has decided to set up an institutional framework to guarantee and secure implementation of both national and European Union's laws prohibiting any kind of discrimination. We would like to use this opportunity to emphasize that, according to EU and other international standards, the main competences of specialised equality body or bodies should be as follows:

- providing independent assistance to victims of discrimination
- conducting independent surveys concerning discrimination
- publishing independent reports and making recommendations on any issue relating to discrimination.

We would like to underline the fact that EU and other international standards stress the need for the national designated body to be independent in carrying out its functions. It is also important to note that the institution is only able to adequately and effectively fulfill its prescribed functions when sufficient funding and staff are allocated. Therefore we wish to encourage you to carefully

steer the legislative work in order to fully secure necessary requirements of independence and effectiveness of the equality infrastructure in Poland.

We strongly believe that your personal commitment to equality and human rights will help in establishing an effective national institution to promote equal opportunities and tackle discrimination. EQUINET will be more than honored to assist with any kind of expert support in order to help Polish authorities to implement equality standards at the highest possible level.



Mandana Zarrehparvar
Chair of EQUINET



Anne Gaspard
EQUINET Director

CC:

- Elzbieta RADZISZEWSKA, Government Plenipotentiary for Equal Treatment