

On the Road to Effective Equality

New responses to racism and intolerance needed?



High-level
Conference for ECRI's
25th Anniversary

Organised by the European Commission
against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)
under the French Presidency of the Council
of Europe Committee of Ministers

Paris, France
26-27 September 2019

www.coe.int/ECRI



2019 MAI - NOVEMBRE
MAY - NOVEMBER
Conseil de l'Europe
Council of Europe



European Commission
against Racism and Intolerance
ECRI
Commission européenne
contre le racisme et l'intolérance



COUNCIL OF EUROPE

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Concept note

Promoting equality and combating racism and intolerance are crucial for Europe's future. The efforts already made towards greater equality have improved the living conditions of many Europeans, fostered more inclusive societies and contributed to safeguarding stability, peace and security in Europe. At the same time, fears still exist and are often instrumentalised by nationalist populism and hate speech. These fears generate racism, xenophobia, antisemitism and intolerance and once again undermine the foundations of a prosperous and inclusive Europe.

Twenty-five years ago, the Council of Europe member states decided to join forces to counter the threat from racism and intolerance and established the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI). ECRI deals with all forms of racism and intolerance, whether based on skin colour, language, religion, nationality, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation or gender identity. ECRI's 25th anniversary, which coincides with the Council of Europe's 70th anniversary, provides the opportunity to take stock of the progress achieved, tackle the present and emerging challenges and explore how to increase the impact of the actions of the member states and ECRI.

This conference, organised under the auspices of the French Presidency of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers, aims at consolidating the future work of the member states and ECRI in this demanding environment. It will review the achievements and challenges over the last 25 years, examine the main trends in the fields of equality and the fight against racism, and intolerance and shape further action in these fields. There will be a specific focus on two particularly important topics: the inclusion in society of persons exposed to racism and intolerance on account of their affiliation, real or presumed, to a group, and the management of the opportunities and risks – including the spread of hate speech – that new technologies and the Internet bring with regard to equality, racism, intolerance and discrimination.

It is our hope that this conference will generate new momentum, increased commitment and innovative tools for all those striving to win the struggle for effective equality, inclusion and cohesion in the whole society.

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Draft programme

Venue: Ségur-Fontenoy Building, 20 Avenue de Ségur, 75007 Paris

Thursday, 26 September 2019

Opening (1.30 - 2.00 pm)

1st session – Reality check after 25 years: are we winning or losing the struggle for equality?
(2.00 - 4.00 pm)

What have we achieved, where are the lacunae, and which good practices can we highlight?

Coffee break (4.00 - 4.30 pm)

2nd session – Looking to the future: More of the same or new ways to achieve equality? (4.30 - 6.00 pm)

What are the main trends in the fields of equality and the fight against the different forms of racism, xenophobia, antisemitism and intolerance, what action is needed in these fields, how can we improve impact and involve new generations?

Cultural event and dinner (6.15 pm)

Friday, 27 September 2019

3rd session – Inclusive societies: How to get it right? (9.00 -10.45 am)

How can we achieve the sustainable inclusion of groups exposed to racism and intolerance in our societies, what should we focus on and what has worked in practice?

- Inclusive integration as a two-way process involving the whole of society
- Effective mechanisms to prevent and combat hate speech in political debate
- Good practices on inclusion at regional and local level

Coffee break (10.45 - 11.15 am)

4th session – New technologies and the Internet: How to use the opportunities and control the risks? (11.15 am - 12.45 pm)

What are the opportunities and risks related to new technologies and the Internet, how can we deal with them and what should we focus on?

- Using algorithms to prevent and combat bias, discrimination and exclusion
- Establishing an effective framework to combat hateful content on the Internet

Conclusions – The future of the promotion of equality and the fight against racism and intolerance (12.45 - 1.15 pm)

List of confirmed speakers

Council of Europe

- Liliane Maury-Pasquier, President of the Parliamentary Assembly
- Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, Deputy Secretary General
- Linos-Alexander Sicilianos, President of the European Court of Human Rights
- Dunja Mijatović, Commissioner for Human Rights
- Jean-Paul Lehnens, Chair of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance
- Anja Olin Pape, Chair of the Joint Council on Youth and of the Advisory Council on Youth
- Harald Bergmann, Representative and Thematic Spokesperson on Human Rights of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Mayor of Middelburg
- Anne Weber, Advisor of the Commissioner for Human Rights

Member States

- Félix Braz, Luxembourg's Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of Justice
- Costas Tsiaras, Greece's Minister of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights
- Trine Skei Grande, Norway's Minister of Culture and Equality
- Kristine Grigoryan, Armenia's Deputy Minister of Justice
- Muhterem Ince, Turkey's Deputy Minister of Interior
- Rosa Monteiro, Portugal's Secretary of State for Citizenship and Equality
- Jean-Marie Delarue, President of the French National Consultative Commission on Human Rights
- Kirsi Pimiä, Finland's Non-Discrimination Ombudsman
- Jacques Toubon, France's Human Rights Defender
- Tena Šimonović Einwalter, Croatia's Deputy Ombudsman, Chair of the Executive Board of the European Network of Equality Bodies
- Gwendal Le Grand, Deputy Secretary General of the French National Commission on Informatics and Liberty

International Organisations

- Věra Jourová, EU Commissioner for Justice, Consumers & Gender Equality
- Nada Al-Nashif, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences
- E. Tendayi Achiume, UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance
- Amir Noureddine, Chair of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- Ioannis N. Dimitrakopoulos, Scientific Adviser, EU Agency for Fundamental Rights

Experts and Civil society

- Nils Muižnieks, Expert, former Chair of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance and former Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights
- Evelyne Paradis, Executive Director of ILGA-Europe (the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association)
- Michaël Privot, Director of the European Network Against Racism



PRÉSIDENCE FRANÇAISE
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- Thomas Huddleston, Research Director at Migration Policy Group
- Julien Cornebise, Research Director at Element AI
- Gabrielle Guillemin, Senior Legal Officer at ARTICLE 19
- Mahira Karim, Activist of No Hate Speech Campaign