Joint Conference

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS, NON-DISCRIMINATION
AND THE PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS, INCLUDING
LGBTI

Members of the Pre-Accession Countries' Parliaments
and the European Parliament

Italian Presidency of the Council of the EU
and
European Commission

With the participation of the Parliament of Albania

Tirana
20-21 November 2014

Meeting location: Sheraton Hotel, Sheshi Italia, Tirana 1000

PROGRAMME
Thursday 20 November 2014

20.00-22.00 Dinner offered by the European Parliament

Metropolitan Restaurant at the Sheraton Hotel (On invitation)

Friday 21 November 2014

08:15-09:00 Arrival and registration of the participants

Chaired by MEP

09:00 – 09:15 Opening session

Introductory speeches by:

Mr Ilir Meta, Speaker of the Parliament of Albania

Mr Niko Peleshi, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Albania

09.15 - 10.00 Keynote Speeches - The EU role in ensuring non-discrimination and the protection of minorities in general

Ms Ulrike Lunacek, Vice-President of the European Parliament for Western Balkans, former rapporteur (2014) on homophobia and discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity (Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs)

Amb. Gianludovico de Martino di Montegiordano, President of the Inter-ministerial Committee for Human Rights (CIDU), Italian Presidency of the Council of the EU

Mr Simon Mordue, Director, Enlargement Policy and Strategy, European Commission
The EU anti-discrimination legislation with respect to all minorities

Ms Helga Stevens, MEP, Member of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

Ms Salla Saastamoinen, Director for Equality, Directorate General for Justice, European Commission

Questions and debate

Coffee break / Press Point

Safeguarding Fundamental Rights and respect for minorities within and outside the EU

Mr Dennis Van der Veur, Head of Sector Cooperation with EU Institutions and EU Member States, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights

Ms Eleni Theocharous, MEP, Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

Questions and debate

Non-discrimination in practice - Covering aspects of discrimination, freedom of assembly and expression, situation of media and internet for all minorities

Ms Jasminka Dzuhmhur, Human Rights Ombudsman of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mr Amarildo Fecanji, Director of the project "Improving the lives of LGBTI people at the local level", PINK Embassy, NGO, Albania

Mr Igli Totozani, Albanian People's Advocate

Questions and debate

Official lunch offered by the European Commission

The European Parliament, the Council of Europe and civil society role in the protection of the fundamental rights with respect to sexual orientation and gender identity in Western Balkans and Turkey
Ms Ulrike Lunacek, Vice-President of the European Parliament for Western Balkans, former rapporteur (2014) on homophobia and discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity (Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs)

Mr Robert Biedroń, General rapporteur on the rights of LGBT people of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Mr Björn van Roozendaal, Programmes Director, ILGA Europe

Ms Xheni Karaj, Director, Aleanca against Discrimination, NGO, Albania

Questions and debate

14.45 - 15.45 Safeguarding the fundamental rights of citizens, including LGBTI, in practice

Mr Jovan Kojicic, Anti-Discrimination Advisor to the Prime Minister, Prime Minister’s Office, Montenegro

Members of Parliament from the region (3 minutes per speaker)

Questions and debate

15.45 - 16.00 Coffee break

16.00 - 16.45 The role of the media in breaking stereotypes and changing attitudes

Ms Günseli Dum, LISTAG - voluntary support and solidarity group for families and friends of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans people in Turkey (Istanbul branch)

Mr Srdjan Dragojevic, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia and director of ‘Parada’ movie

Questions and debate

16.45 - 17.00 Closing remarks by the Chair

End of the conference