



LOBBYING KIT

The EU Directive on the Right to Family Reunification in Europe:

# WHAT IS AT STAKE FOR MIGRANT WOMEN?



A publication of the European Network of Migrant Women and the European Women's Lobby

**THE EUROPEAN NETWORK OF MIGRANT WOMEN (ENoMW) IS A NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION FOUNDED IN 2010 TO REPRESENT THE RIGHTS, OPINIONS, CONCERNS, NEEDS AND INTERESTS OF MIGRANT WOMEN IN THE EUROPEAN UNION.**

**THE EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY (EWL) IS THE LARGEST UMBRELLA ORGANISATION OF WOMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION WORKING TO PROMOTE WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY. SINCE 2007, THE EWL HAS SUPPORTED AND COORDINATED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EUROPEAN NETWORK OF MIGRANT WOMEN (ENoMW).**

The EWL and the ENoMW share the belief that **migration and integration policies have to be gender sensitive and respect women's rights**. These policies affect migrant women and migrant men in different ways, and often to the disadvantage of women, leaving them more vulnerable.

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I. Introduction:

# WHY A LOBBYING KIT ON THE RIGHT TO FAMILY REUNIFICATION

Family reunification is a human right recognised by international law.

BRINGING FAMILIES TOGETHER HELPS TO CREATE SOCIO-CULTURAL STABILITY, FACILITATING THE INTEGRATION OF PEOPLE FROM THIRD COUNTRIES WITHIN THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU) MEMBER STATES.<sup>1</sup> IT ALSO PROMOTES ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COHESION – A FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVE OF THE EU. FOR THIS REASON IN 2003 THE EU ADOPTED THE DIRECTIVE ON THE RIGHT TO FAMILY REUNIFICATION (DIRECTIVE 2003/86/EC).

OFTEN, HOWEVER, EUROPEAN PROVISIONS FOR FAMILY REUNIFICATION ARE NOT PROPERLY IMPLEMENTED AND ARE NOT GENDER-SENSITIVE. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THIS RIGHT IS FULLY RESPECTED AND THAT THE DIRECTIVE IS NOT APPLIED IN A MANNER THAT DISCRIMINATES AGAINST MIGRANT WOMEN.

NOW, THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION HAS LAUNCHED A CONSULTATION TO REVIEW THE DIRECTIVE. THE EUROPEAN NETWORK OF MIGRANT WOMEN AND THE EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY ARE CALLING ON THE EU TO ENFORCE CURRENT PROVISIONS RATHER THAN REOPEN LEGISLATIVE NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH, GIVEN THE CURRENT POLITICAL CLIMATE, COULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO MIGRANTS. THIS LOBBYING KIT AIMS TO OFFER TOOLS TO ORGANISATIONS AND TO HELP THEM ADVOCATE FOR GENDER-SENSITIVE EU POLICIES ON FAMILY REUNIFICATION THAT UPHOLD THE RIGHTS AND MEET THE NEEDS OF MIGRANT WOMEN. PLEASE JOIN US AND HELP TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE THE RIGHTS OF ALL MIGRANTS - WOMEN, MEN, GIRLS AND BOYS.

# FACTS AND FIGURES: BACKGROUND ON MIGRANT WOMEN AND FAMILY REUNIFICATION IN THE EU

## MIGRANT WOMEN IN THE EU

In 2010 there were 32.5 million foreigners in EU countries, corresponding to 6.5% of the total population. The majority of them, 20.2 million, were third-country nationals (i.e. citizens of non-EU countries), while the remaining 12.3 million were citizens of another member state.<sup>2</sup>

In 2010 there were 15.8 million migrant women in the EU, 48.6% of the total number of migrants.<sup>3</sup> 44% of migrant women in Europe are refugees.<sup>4</sup> On average, 30% of these women are asylum seekers.<sup>5</sup>

## FAMILY REUNIFICATION IS A MAJOR REASON FOR MIGRATION TO THE EU

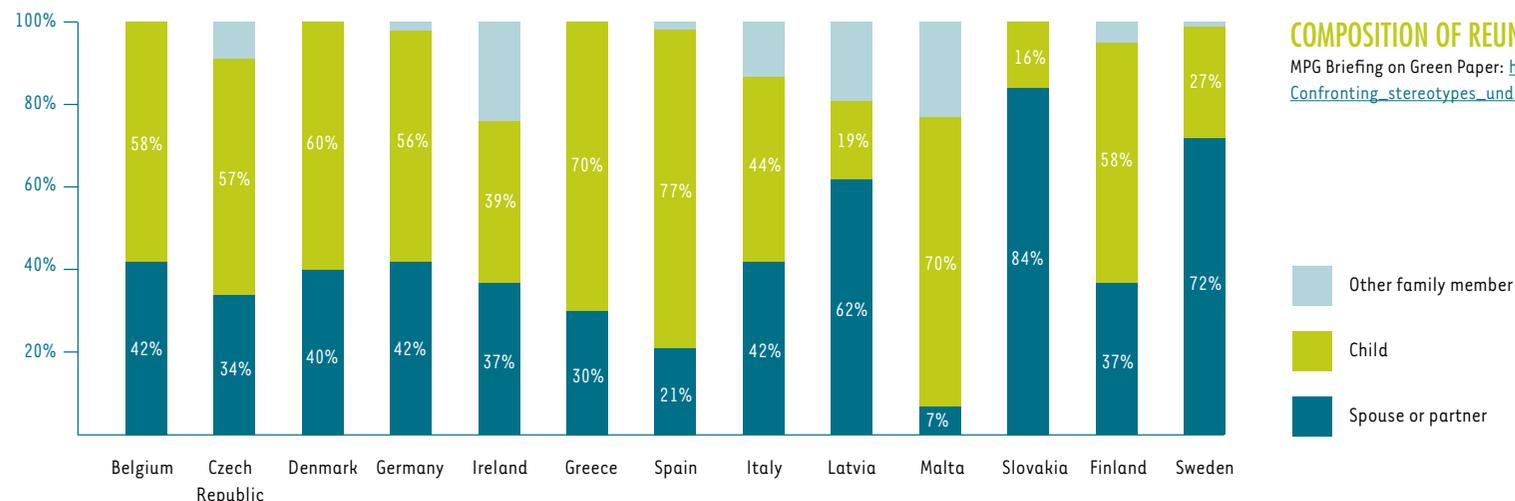
In 2009, EU member states issued approximately 2.3 million new residence permits to third-country nationals.<sup>6</sup> The largest proportion of these permits – 660,000, corresponding to 28.2% of the total – was issued for reasons to do with family reunification and formation.<sup>7</sup>

## DISCRIMINATION AGAINST MIGRANT WOMEN REGARDING THE RIGHT TO FAMILY REUNIFICATION

Many states, in particular in Northern Europe, demand specific levels of resources (income and / or housing) from those seeking to reunite their families. Access to resources is therefore crucial in enabling women to sponsor either partners or children. Yet the resources they have at their disposal, especially through employment, are far less than for men.<sup>8</sup>

Forty-four per cent of migrant women are employed, compared with 68% of European-born women.<sup>9</sup> Women in the EU earn on average 17% less than men; migrant women earn an extra 10% less than women in general.<sup>10</sup>

Compared to native-born women in Austria, Germany, Greece, Italy and Sweden, over three times the percentage of migrant women are overqualified for the jobs they undertake.<sup>11</sup>



### COMPOSITION OF REUNITING NON-EU FAMILIES IN 2010<sup>12</sup>

MPG Briefing on Green Paper: [http://www.migpolgroup.org/public/docs/Family\\_reunion\\_Confronting\\_stereotypes\\_understanding\\_family\\_life\\_MPG\\_Briefing\\_1.pdf](http://www.migpolgroup.org/public/docs/Family_reunion_Confronting_stereotypes_understanding_family_life_MPG_Briefing_1.pdf)

## TOP ORIGIN COUNTRIES BY CITIZENSHIP IN 2010<sup>13</sup>

MPG Briefing on Green Paper:

[http://www.migpolgroup.org/public/docs/Family\\_reunion\\_Confronting\\_stereotypes\\_understanding\\_family\\_life\\_MPG\\_Briefing\\_1.pdf](http://www.migpolgroup.org/public/docs/Family_reunion_Confronting_stereotypes_understanding_family_life_MPG_Briefing_1.pdf)

	1 <sup>ST</sup>	2 <sup>ND</sup>	3 <sup>RD</sup>
Austria	Turkey 26%	Serbia 21%	Bosnia 11%
Belgium	Morocco 16%	Turkey 6%	Russia 5%
Bulgaria	Turkey 28%	Russia 25%	Ukraine 9%
Cyprus	Russia 21%	Syria 11%	Ukraine 7%
Czech Republic	Ukraine 35%	Vietnam 20%	Russia 16%
Denmark	Thailand 12%	Turkey 10%	Philippines 6%
Finland	Russia 26%	Somalia 10%	India 9%
France	Algeria 18%	Morocco 17%	Tunisia 8%
Germany	Turkey 17%	Iraq 8%	Kosovo 8%
Greece	Albania 84%	India 3%	Syria 2%
Hungary	China 24%	USA 14%	Ukraine 8%
Ireland	Somalia 18%	Iraq 16%	Nigeria / Sudan 6%
Italy	Morocco 14%	Albania 14%	China 7%
Latvia	Russia 62%	Ukraine 11%	Belarus 7%
Lithuania	Russia 38%	Belarus 25%	Ukraine 12%
Malta	India 17%	Nigeria / Russia / Turkey 13%	
Poland	Ukraine 30%	Vietnam 17%	Russia 10%
Portugal	Brazil 41%	Ukraine 11%	Cape Verde 11%
Romania	China 27%	Turkey 23%	USA 5%
Slovakia	S. Korea 23%	Ukraine 17%	China 12%
Slovenia	Bosnia 46%	Kosovo 28%	Former Yugoslavia 12%
Spain	Morocco 36%	Pakistan 10%	China 10%
Sweden	Iraq 17%	Thailand 10%	Somalia 6%
United Kingdom	India 25%	Pakistan 11%	USA 6%

# BACKGROUND TO THE EUROPEAN DIRECTIVE ON THE RIGHT TO FAMILY REUNIFICATION

## THE RIGHT TO FAMILY REUNIFICATION IN INTERNATIONAL LAW

Family reunification is a human right recognised by international law. The 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) establishes the unconditional right to found a family (Article 16, Paragraph 1). The 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) added that «the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State» (Article 23, Paragraph 1). The above rights are to be enjoyed by all individuals «without distinction of any kind» (Article 2 paragraph 1 ICCPR).

A right to family reunification has also been expressly established in two significant human rights treaties: the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.<sup>14</sup>

## THE RIGHT TO FAMILY REUNIFICATION IN THE EU

The European Union enjoys certain competences in the fields of asylum, refugees and immigration policy. In 1999, new Treaty provisions made it easier to adopt legislation in this area, and on 22 September 2003 the Directive on the Right to Family Reunification (2003/86/EC) was the first major Directive adopted by the EU under these provisions (Article 63 of the Treaty establishing the European Community).

The Directive “sets out common rules on the exercise of the right to family reunification by third-country nationals residing lawfully in member states”.<sup>15</sup> The Directive applies to all member states except Ireland, Denmark and the UK.

## RESTRICTIONS ON THE RIGHT TO FAMILY REUNIFICATION IN THE EU

Although the Directive was meant to promote better integration of migrants and guarantee their right to reunite with their families, the EU member states have not implemented the Directive properly. The latest Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEX III) outlines the restrictions already faced by applicants from third-country nationals with regard to family reunification. “Applicants must prove a ‘stable and sufficient’ income, often [vaguely defined] and higher than what nationals need [in order] to live on social assistance. An increasing number of countries impose language or integration conditions, extending these to spouses before arrival. Families tend to acquire both a secure residence permit and equal rights, but in order to obtain an autonomous residence permit, they face significant waiting periods and conditions.”<sup>16</sup>

The European Policy Centre has considered that many leading member states are walking away from EU standards, and towards migration restrictionism and “intergovernmentalism”, with the French Presidency’s European Pact on Immigration and Asylum in 2008<sup>17</sup> (see Migration Policy Group (MPG) of the impact the Pact’s proposals would have on family reunification).<sup>18</sup>

In the end of this section, you find [a table](#) presenting the current state of affairs as regards implementation of the Directive in the EU member states.

## EUROPEAN COMMISSION GREEN PAPER — WHAT IS AT STAKE NOW?

In order to “launch a wider consultation process on the future of the family reunification regime”, on 15 November 2011 the European Commission published a Green Paper posing a number of questions<sup>19</sup> regarding the right to family reunification by third-country nationals.

Following this public consultation, the European Commission will decide on a possible renegotiation of the current Directive on the Right to Family Reunification based on citizens, institutions’ and member states’ reactions.

# A TIME LINE FOR ACTION

2003

EUROPEAN DIRECTIVE  
ON THE RIGHT TO  
FAMILY REUNIFICATION

2008

EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION REPORT  
ON THE APPLICATION  
OF DIRECTIVE ON  
THE RIGHT TO FAMILY  
REUNIFICATION

2010

LAUNCH OF THE  
MIGRANT INTEGRATION  
POLICY INDEX (MIPEX)

15 November  
2011

GREEN PAPER  
ON THE RIGHT TO  
FAMILY REUNIFICATION

January 2012

**NOW!  
TIME  
FOR  
ACTION**

01 March 2012

PUBLIC  
CONSULTATION ENDS

2012 -2013

EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION  
ORGANISES A PUBLIC  
DEBATE AND  
PROPOSES NEXT STEPS

# THE POSITION OF THE ENoMW AND THE EWL ON EU LEGISLATION ON THE RIGHT TO FAMILY REUNIFICATION

## DO NOT REOPEN THE DIRECTIVE!

The EWL and ENoMW feel that renegotiating the European Directive on the Right to Family Reunification is unlikely to result in stronger provisions for migrant women. Instead, we are calling for the proper implementation of current provisions using a gender-sensitive perspective, and the launch of infringement procedures against member states whose implementation is unsatisfactory and discriminatory.

The ENoMW and EWL in 2011 launched a campaign on the right to family reunification which aims at recognising the importance of family reunification policies for migrant women, both for their own wellbeing as individuals and for the integration chances of their families as a whole.

## FOUR RECOMMENDATIONS FROM ENoMW AND EWL

Our campaign focuses on four key recommendations that emerged from MIPEX and from the ENoMW's day-to-day experience of working with migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women.

- 1 . **STOP CREATING DEPENDENCE** and instead facilitate autonomous residence for family members, especially vulnerable persons such as migrant women affected by domestic and /or other violence;
- 2 . **CHANGE THE CONDITIONS** that impact disproportionately on migrant women as spouses and family members;
- 3 . **CHANGE INTEGRATION REQUIREMENTS** that result in the exclusion of poorer and less educated migrant women;
- 4 . **CHANGE SPONSORSHIP REQUIREMENTS** that disproportionately impact on women affected by multiple discrimination in society and the labour market.



# THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DIRECTIVE 2003/86/EC BY EU MEMBER STATES - AN OVERVIEW

## OBSTACLES TO THE INTEGRATION OF REUNITING FAMILIES IDENTIFIED IN THE 2011 MIGRANT INTEGRATION POLICY INDEX

## PROBLEMATIC TRANSPOSITION OF EU FAMILY REUNIFICATION DIRECTIVE IDENTIFIED IN THE 2008 EUROPEAN COMMISSION APPLICATION REPORT

<b>EU-WIDE PROBLEMS</b> 	<b>1. COUNTRIES WITH RESTRICTIVE DEFINITIONS OF FAMILY ALSO IMPOSE BURDENSOME CONDITIONS;</b>  <b>2. THE INCOME THAT SPONSORS MUST PROVE IS OFTEN HIGHER THAN WHAT NATIONALS NEED IN ORDER TO LIVE ON SOCIAL ASSISTANCE;</b>  <b>3. FEW COUNTRIES IMPOSE LANGUAGE CONDITIONS ON SPONSORS OR REUNITED FAMILIES IN COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE. BUT IF THEY DO, MANY OF THEM ALSO DO SO FOR SPOUSES ABROAD IN COUNTRY OF ORIGIN, WHERE THEY ENCOUNTER HIGHER COSTS AND LESS SUPPORT;</b>  <b>4. HARDLY ANY LANGUAGE CONDITIONS ABROAD PRESCRIBE FAVOURABLE CONDITIONS FOR LEARNING THE LANGUAGE;</b>  <b>5. TO GET AN AUTONOMOUS RESIDENCE PERMIT, REUNITED FAMILIES FACE SIGNIFICANT WAITING PERIODS AND CONDITIONS.</b>	<p>Incorrect transposition in areas like visa facilitation, autonomous permits, best-interest-of-child assessments, legal redress, &amp; more favourable provisions for refugees;</p> <p>'Too broad or excessive' requirements on age limits, income, integration measures;</p> <p>Integration measures can be 'questioned' as to admissibility under Directive if courses and tests not accessible, not well supported, discriminatory (e.g. based on age), disproportionately burdensome (e.g. high fees, insufficient free preparatory materials or courses, hard-to-reach venues), or if impact serves purposes other than facilitating the integration of family members.</p>
<b>BELGIUM</b> 	<p>Complicated legislation; No application for parents or grandparents;                      Age limit 21 years (2006);                      2011 law contravenes EU family reunion Directive &amp; ECJ Chakroun judgment.</p>	<p>'Questionable' requirements for sponsor to have family housing throughout entire procedure;                      Mandatory provision on visa facilitation not fully implemented;                      'Inadmissible' degree of discretion 'impedes' access to autonomous permit for listed vulnerable groups.</p>
<b>CYPRUS</b> 	<p>Third most restrictive policies in EU, outside the range of the EU Directive;                      Many sponsors excluded due to interpretation of 'temporary' permits;                      Age limit of 21 years not accompanied by justification in the law;                      Disproportionate income requirements and fees;                      Highly discretionary procedure;                      Obstacles to autonomous permit.</p>	<p>'Problematic' definition of 'temporary' permits;                      'Questionable' additional requirements for spouses;                      Residence requirement for sponsor creates 'implementation problems' and 'delays';                      Integration measures 'questionable' if 'disproportionate';                      'Imprecise' income requirement;                      Fees are too high if they undermine Directive's effect on right to family reunion;                      The more favourable conditions required for refugees have not been introduced.</p>

<p><b>CZECH REPUBLIC</b></p> 	<p>Requirement of permanent residence permit; Many grounds for withdrawal of permit; Delays in obtaining autonomous.</p>	<p>X</p>
<p><b>DENMARK</b></p> 	<p>Second most restrictive policies in EU, many of which would contravene EU law if the Directive was applicable in Denmark; Long residence requirement; Age limit of 24; Restriction on applications by other adult dependents requirements; Disproportionate income &amp; housing requirements; New immigration test is rather unfavourable to integration - high fees, little support; No entitlement to autonomous permit for any reunited families.</p>	<p>EU Family Reunification Directive does not apply</p>
<p><b>FINLAND</b></p> 	<p>Limitations on dependent adult children &amp; relatives; Income level higher than in most countries; Obstacles to autonomous permit.</p>	<p>Particular concerns re income requirement, which increases significantly with each reunited child; Fees are too high if they undermine Directive's effect on right to family reunion; Improper implementation of autonomous permit clause; 'Inadmissible' degree of discretion 'impedes' access to autonomous permit for listed vulnerable groups.</p>
<p><b>FRANCE</b></p> 	<p>Third most restrictive conditions &amp; family definitions; Restrictions on dependent adult children &amp; relatives; Disproportionate income, housing requirements, &amp; fees; Discretion within procedure; Obstacles to autonomous permit.</p>	<p>Integration measures 'questionable' if 'disproportionate'; Fees are too high if they undermine Directive's effect on right to family reunion.</p>
<p><b>GERMANY</b></p> 	<p>No free German courses/tests for applicants abroad; Discretion within procedure; Obstacles to autonomous permit.</p>	<p>Integration measures 'questionable' if 'disproportionate'.</p>
<p><b>IRELAND</b></p> 	<p>Least favourable policy in Europe or North America; No right to family reunion; Highly discretionary procedure; No reasoned decision or right to appeal; Restricted access to work, benefits, education, training; No right to autonomous permit.</p>	<p>EU Family Reunification Directive does not apply.</p>

<p><b>ITALY</b></p> 	<p>Obstacles to application for sponsor's parents (2008); Disproportionate housing, income requirements, &amp; fees (2009 Security Act).</p>	<p>Fees are too high if they undermine Directive's effect on right to family reunion; 'Inadmissible' amount of discretion 'impedes' access to autonomous permit for listed vulnerable groups.</p>
<p><b>LITHUANIA</b></p> 	<p>Long residence requirements for sponsor; Age limit 21 years; Slightly discretionary procedure; Obstacles to autonomous permit.</p>	<p>Residence requirement for sponsor creates 'implementation problems' and 'delays'; Need compulsory mention of best interest of minor children during application examination.</p>
<p><b>POLAND</b></p> 	<p>Two-year waiting period for application; Potentially lengthy and costly procedure; Obstacles to autonomous permit.</p>	<p>Housing requirements cannot be imposed on refugees; 'Inadmissible' degree of discretion 'impedes' access to autonomous permit for listed vulnerable groups.</p>
<p><b>PORTUGAL</b></p> 	<p>Potential difficulties meeting basic housing requirements &amp; paying fees; Potential obstacles to autonomous permit for certain vulnerable groups.</p>	<p>Need compulsory mention of best interest of minor children during application examination.</p>
<p><b>SPAIN</b></p> 	<p>Restriction on applications for parents/grandparents (2009); Potential obstacles to autonomous permits, especially for vulnerable groups.</p>	<p>Problematic time limits for procedure.</p>
<p><b>SWEDEN</b></p> 	<p>Income and housing conditions for some groups (2009); No maximum time limit for processing application.</p>	<p>X</p>
<p><b>UNITED KINGDOM</b></p> 	<p>Restriction on application for adult dependents; No free English courses/tests for pre-entry test; New consultation proposes some of the most restrictive conditions in Europe; Restrictions on access to public benefits.</p>	<p>EU Family Reunification Directive does not apply.</p>



II . Advocacy:

# GETTING STARTED

## Objective

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE ENOMW, THE EWL AND THEIR PARTNERS IS TO IMPRESS UPON THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION, USING THE CONSULTATION PROCEDURE, THAT IN THE CURRENT POLITICAL CLIMATE A RENEGOTIATION OF THE DIRECTIVE ON THE RIGHT TO FAMILY REUNIFICATION WOULD BE TO THE DETRIMENT OF MIGRANTS. INSTEAD, THE COMMISSION SHOULD ENSURE THAT THE DIRECTIVE PROMOTES BETTER INTEGRATION CHANCES FOR ALL MIGRANTS AND THAT IT IS IMPLEMENTED IN A GENDER-SENSITIVE MANNER.

# WHAT YOU CAN DO

The European Commission Consultation is open until 01 March 2012. Until this date, all stakeholders are invited to submit their free contributions.

We invite you to **SUBMIT YOUR OWN CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMISSION**, drawing as appropriate on the resources in this Lobbying Kit – notably the ENoMW position paper on this issue – as well as on data and evidence from your country and/or personal experience. You could also attach a petition to your submission, for example.

In addition to responding directly to the Commission's Consultation, we invite you to **CONTACT OTHER STAKEHOLDERS, IN PARTICULAR YOUR LOCAL, REGIONAL, NATIONAL AND EUROPEAN DECISION-MAKERS, AND URGE THEM TO RESPOND TO THE CONSULTATION** as appropriate and/or to support your position in any other way possible.

By **GAINING MEDIA ATTENTION** for your cause, you can increase the pressure on your policy-makers and other stakeholders to support you. You can also, for example, **ORGANISE A PUBLIC DISCUSSION** at the local level or **WRITE A STATEMENT** with your partners.

Finally, you can submit a legal complaint at national or or EU level in order to draw attention to, protest against and hopefully rectify improper implementation of the EU Directive.

## RESPOND TO THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION CONSULTATION

The European Commission Consultation, which will be followed by a public hearing, is an important opportunity for the ENoMW, the EWL and their members and partners across Europe to convey their concerns regarding the restrictive implementation of the right to family reunification and its impact on migrant women's lives. You will find the Commission's consultation document (Green Paper) in the 'Resources' section of this Lobbying Kit.

In order to respond to the Consultation, please read the Green Paper. You are then invited to send your written response, in whatever format you desire (there is no set form, or formal requirements), no later than 01 March 2012 to the following postal address or e-mail:

> **Immigration and Integration Unit**  
'Green Paper on Family reunification'  
Directorate General Home Affairs  
European Commission  
B-1049 Brussels

> e-mail: [HOME-family-reunification-green-paper@ec.europa.eu](mailto:HOME-family-reunification-green-paper@ec.europa.eu)

All relevant contributions will be published on the web portal '[Your Voice in Europe](#)'

## WRITE TO YOUR LOCAL, NATIONAL AND EUROPEAN REPRESENTATIVES TO CALL FOR THEIR SUPPORT

It is also important to target local and national representatives, government ministers and policy-makers at the city, county and state levels in order to make our opinions and recommendations heard. They can respond to the Consultation themselves, and/or influence the Commission's final decision in various ways.

In the Action Tools section of this Lobbying Kit you will find a model letter. Use it to target your local and/or national policy-makers (ministers, members of parliament (MPs), members of the European Parliament (MEPs), mayors, city councillors, political foundations, religious institutions and leaders, and any other authority responsible for this issue in your country).

- > **MEPs** - The full list of MEPs can be found on the [European Parliament website](#)  
*Click on the country you come from and all the MEPs representing it will appear on the screen.*
- > You probably already know your local and national policy-makers, city councillors, religious leaders and relevant political figures. If not, you can find out who they are on your city council's website or the [EU website on national authorities](#).

**In order to back up your demands with policy-makers, you can also request a face-to-face meeting to argue your points.**

## CALL ON PARTNERS TO SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN AND TAKE PART IN THE CONSULTATION.

Contact local stakeholders, associations and relevant individuals and ask them to respond to the Commission's consultation and get involved in the campaign.

## WRITE A JOINT STATEMENT WITH YOUR PARTNERS

In the Resources section of this Lobbying Kit, **you will find the [ENoMW position paper](#) which you can use as a model for your own statement.**

## START A PETITION

You can campaign by starting a petition at city level to support an individual case (e.g. where a woman with dependent status is to be deported because she has split up from her partner, or cannot get her children from abroad to come and live with her), linking it to the overall political message you want to get across on that issue. Send the petition to your local/national representative and ask for supportive action. You could also attach it to your own response to the Commission's consultation.

> **You will find a [model petition form](#) in the Action Tools section of this Lobbying Kit.**

## WRITE A PRESS RELEASE AND CONTACT THE MEDIA

You can draw attention to this issue and raise awareness by contacting the media (TV, radio and newspapers). They are more likely to respond if you offer a public event, an interview and / or a press meeting.

> **Use the [model press release](#) in the Action Tools section of this Lobbying Kit.**

## ORGANISE OR JOIN IN AN EVENT AT LOCAL LEVEL

Invite the community to watch the **short films** produced by the ENoMW on the right to family reunification. **You can find the links to the short films in the Action Tools section of this Lobbying Kit. You can invite policy-makers from the local/national level for the discussion afterwards.**

## REGISTER A LEGAL COMPLAINT REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DIRECTIVE IN YOUR COUNTRY

Starting legal proceedings can be an excellent way to draw attention to, protest against and ensure effective change in cases where the rights of individuals are being infringed. There are three ways for you as an organisation or an individual to start legal proceedings for the correct implementation of EU law:<sup>20</sup>

### OPTION 1 - Request a preliminary ruling:

Initiate legal proceedings in national courts that set in motion a 'preliminary ruling procedure'. Individual families who are directly affected by problematic provisions or transposition can bring cases to court. Non-governmental actors sometimes offer their support. National courts of last instance that have to interpret an aspect of [an] EU Directive must ask the European Court of Justice (ECJ) for a preliminary ruling that clarifies what the proper interpretation is. Since the adoption of the Lisbon Treaty in 2009, any national court has the option of referring to the ECJ. While the ECJ does not decide the case, its response is binding on the national court and all other courts in the EU applying that Directive.

### OPTION 2 - Bring a case before the European Court of Justice:

Individuals concerned can bring cases directly before the ECJ. However, such actions are limited in scope and generally not a viable option.

For more information, see:

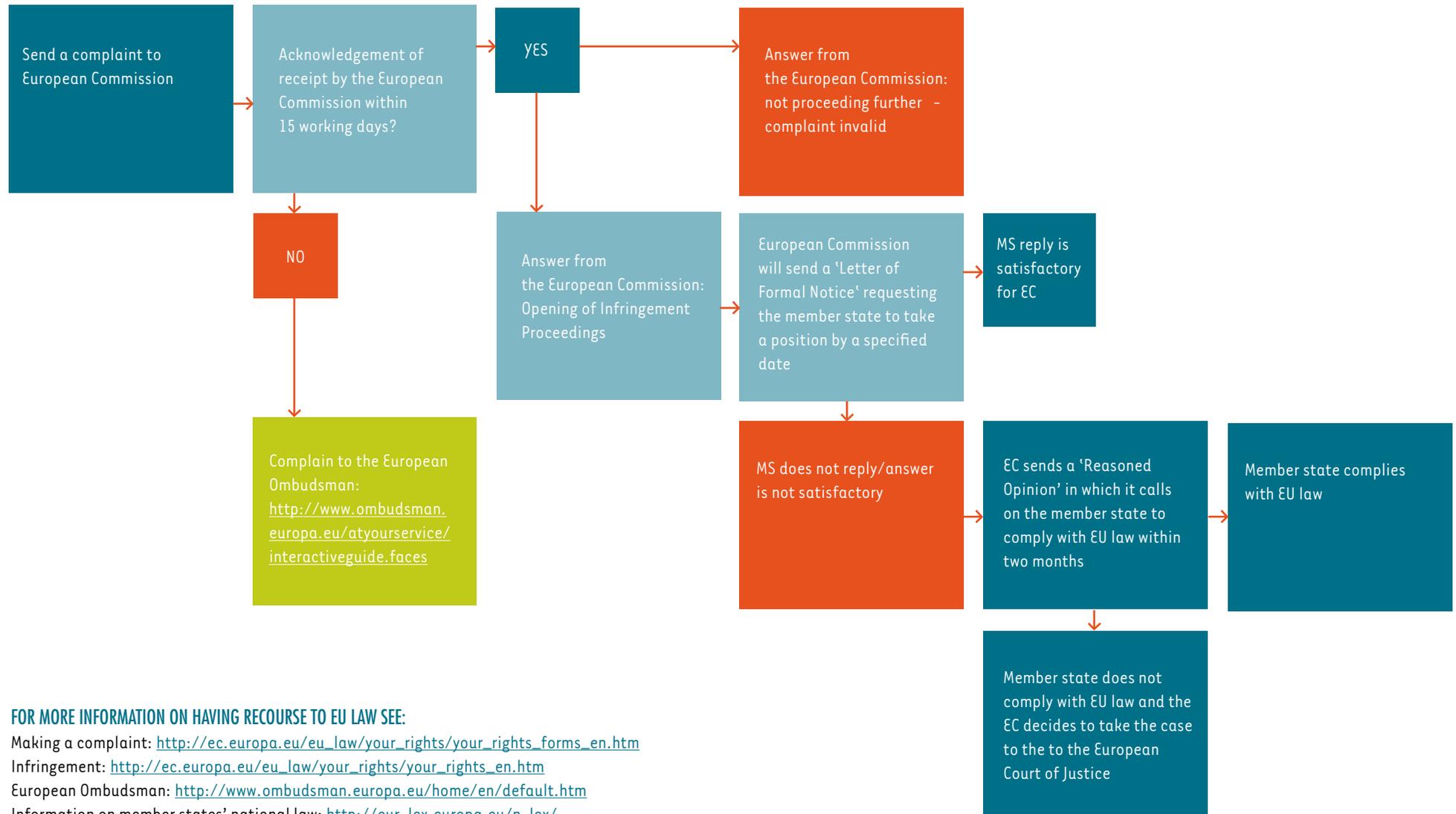
[http://europa.eu/about-eu/institutions-bodies/court-justice/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/about-eu/institutions-bodies/court-justice/index_en.htm)

### OPTION 3 - Call on the European Commission to start 'infringement proceedings':

Ask the European Commission to take legal action against member states where the transposition of the Directive is problematic. The Commission can ask questions and enter into dialogue with member states on specific points of potentially incorrect transposition, which can lead to 'infringement proceedings' before the European Court of Justice. The ECJ can force compliance, for example through fines. See the following chart on how to call on the European Commission to start infringement proceedings.



# INFRINGEMENT PROCEDURE



## FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HAVING RECOURSE TO EU LAW SEE:

Making a complaint: [http://ec.europa.eu/eu\\_law/your\\_rights/your\\_rights\\_forms\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/eu_law/your_rights/your_rights_forms_en.htm)

Infringement: [http://ec.europa.eu/eu\\_law/your\\_rights/your\\_rights\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/eu_law/your_rights/your_rights_en.htm)

European Ombudsman: <http://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/home/en/default.htm>

Information on member states' national law: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/n-lex/>

Information on EU law: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/>

# HOW TO GET IT RIGHT



## WHAT DOES ADVOCACY INVOLVE?

- It has defined a key concern
- It seeks something from others – individuals, groups and / or institutions
- It asks questions about the relevant topic and delivers facts and figures about the key concern
- Sometimes it gets involved in issues nobody else is working on
- It creates new political and personal experiences
- It creates new public issues and spaces
- It initiates action for a positive change

## TACTICS, TOOLS AND STRATEGIES FOR YOUR ACTION

For every advocacy topic you can develop a strategy and plan tactics for getting involved in the public policy-making sphere.

## TACTICS

Tactics are tools you need for achieving a defined goal. You can choose a single tactic or a whole set of them. Examples might be: gathering signatures on a petition in a public space, organising a joint position paper or advocacy letter, holding a vigil or organising a public information event.

## DEVELOP A GOOD STRATEGY

A strategy requires that you first define clearly the following aspects of your action:

# WHERE ARE YOU NOW? WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GET TO? HOW DO YOU INTEND TO DO THIS?

To develop a successful public advocacy strategy you need to answer eight questions:

## A . LOOK AHEAD

### 1 . What do you want to achieve?

A strategy begins with a clearly defined goal.

Think about how you want to change the situation and what actions you want to include.

### 2 . Who is the action aimed at?

Who are the people or institutions you want to reach? You need to identify not only individuals with responsibility and possible partners and allies, but also your opponents. You need to have a clear idea who will be receiving your message, and to know how and by what means you can put pressure on the target groups.

### 3 . What message do you want the audience to pay attention to?

In approaching a variety of audiences, you must adapt the message so that it is widely recognisable and well understood. An approach should contain two basic components: an appeal to general welfare, and an appeal to a particular personal interest.

### 4 . How do you want to deliver the message?

The same message can have a completely different effect depending on how it is delivered. Make sure it is given BY THE RIGHT PERSON, AT THE RIGHT TIME, IN THE RIGHT PLACE. Sometimes it's better to use an expert, while sometimes a person with direct experience of the problem would be more suitable.

## B . LOOK BACK

### 5 . What have you already achieved?

Successful public advocacy needs a solid foundation. This might include previous actions, existing coalitions, skilled personnel or a database. You don't need to start from scratch – you can make use of experience acquired previously.

### 6 . What do you still need to develop? What are your weak points?

Identify and develop the new resources you need in order to be more effective in a given situation. For example, are there new coalitions to be built? Is there research to be done? Are there media contacts to be made?

### 7 . How will you begin?

Assess which of your goals are currently achievable. Which goals can help you attract the right kind of people? Which can help light the path to your final goal?

### 8 . How will you evaluate your work?

Your progress should be examined along the way, and the success of your strategy should be continually assessed. It is most important that you review whether you have directed your message to the correct audiences and whether they are hearing you as you want to be heard. Your ability to make corrections along the way and to eliminate elements that do not work is vitally important.



## SOME GOOD IDEAS FOR THINKING STRATEGICALLY:

**REALISE** that there are no absolute or “God-given” values or facts.

-

Use an analytical approach, and your own experience, but also use **YOUR INTUITION**.

-

**DEAL WITH THE FULL** complexity of a problem – don’t neglect one aspect.

-

**THINK ABOUT THE QUESTION:** What is specific about advocating on migrant women’s issues?

-

**TRY TO FIND OUT BEST PRACTICE** from others – and use it!

-

**BUILD COOPERATION** across the lines of class/ethnicity/religion/age/sexual orientation/disability/sex.

-

Also **BUILD NETWORKS** between different (migrant) women’s groups.

-

**NETWORK WITH KEY INDIVIDUALS** and those who support your work.

-

**CONNECT WITH POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS** and parties that are important for your topic.

-

Try to make **ALLIANCES** with women and migrants **IN HIGH POLITICAL POSITIONS** in your country.



# III . ACTION TOOLS

In this section:

[MODEL LOBBYING LETTER](#) / [MODEL PRESS RELEASE](#) / [MODEL PETITION](#) / [VIDEO CLIPS ON THE RIGHT TO FAMILY REUNIFICATION](#)

# MODEL LOBBYING LETTER



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To: [NAME]

Cc: [NAMES OF ANY OTHER ADDRESSEES]

[INSERT ADDRESS]

[INSERT DATE]

Dear Madam/Sir,

**Re: Public Consultation on the right to family reunification of third-country nationals in Europe**

[I/We] write to you with regard to the European Commission's recent Green Paper on the Right to Family Reunification of third-country nationals in European countries. It is [my position/the position of the NAME OF YOUR ORGANISATION/the position of the European Network of Migrant Women] that the existing Directive (2003/86/EC) must be properly implemented, and that negotiations regarding its content should not be reopened. [I/We] count on your support in your respond to this Consultation and/or in any other action you may take with regard to this issue.

Although its implementation is not always ideal, the current Directive has a clear focus on the right to family reunification of third-country nationals in the EU. In the view of the online public consultation currently underway (closing date 01 March 2012), and given the prevailing political climate in Europe, we are concerned that negotiations on the Directive could lead to even more restrictive legislation on reuniting the families of third-country nationals and create interdependencies between family members, thereby jeopardising both the wellbeing of and integration processes for migrants living in Europe, and especially migrant women.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY EXAMPLES OF DISCRIMINATION IN YOUR COUNTRY, PLEASE ADD THEM HERE**

[I/We] therefore ask you to clarify your position and to support the Directive (2003/86/EC), in its current form.

[I/We] are confident in your active support for migrant women's rights. We hope you will contribute to this issue by opposing the renegotiation of the current Directive. [I/We would be delighted to have the opportunity to meet with you at your convenience to discuss these issues further.]

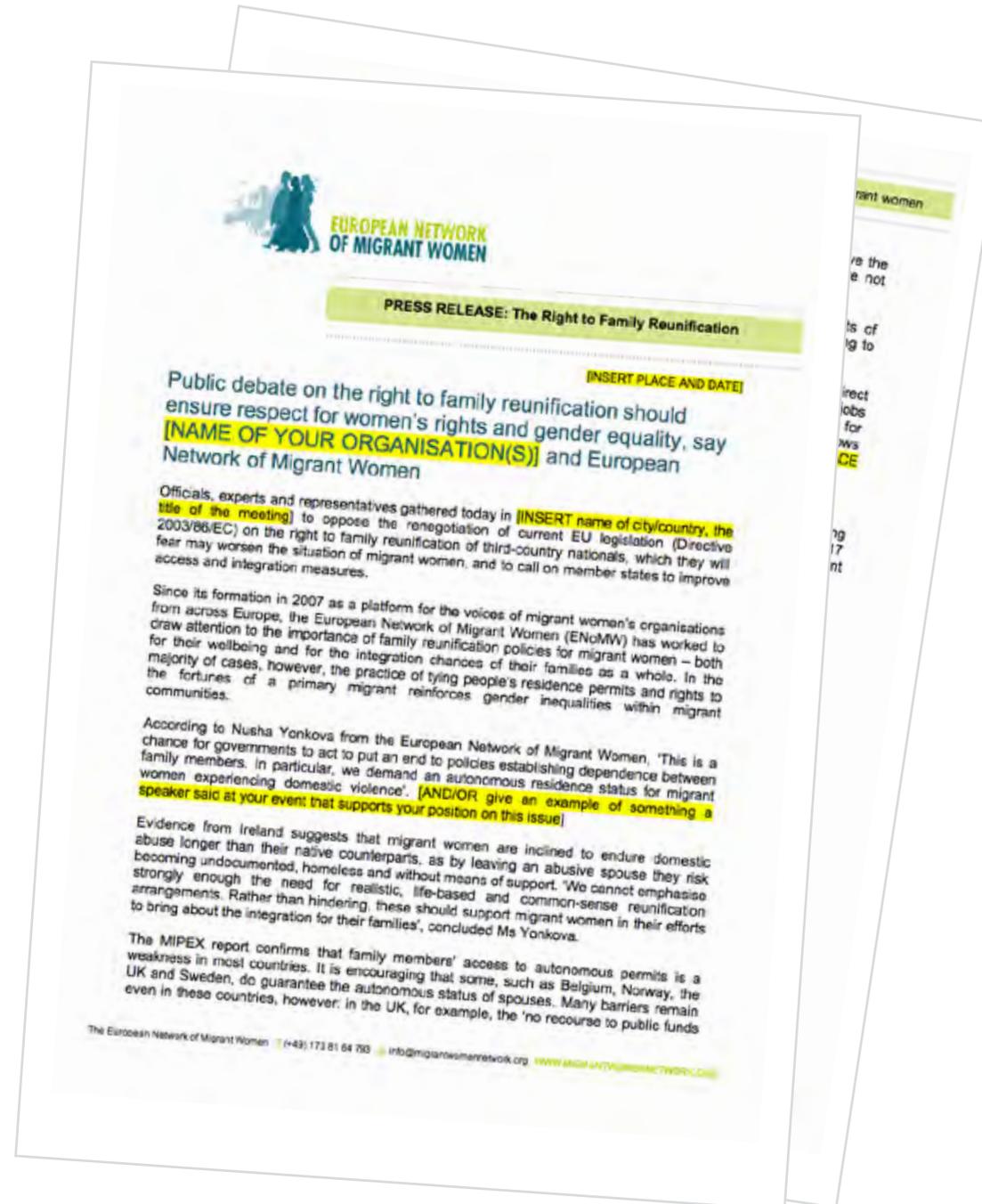
Yours faithfully,

[INSERT YOUR OWN NAME(S) AND SIGNATURE(S)]

# MODEL PRESS RELEASE



click here to download



# MODEL PETITION



[click here to download](#)

 **EUROPEAN NETWORK OF MIGRANT WOMEN**

**PETITION: The Right to Family Reunification**

Family reunification is a right guaranteed by international law, which helps to create socio-cultural stability and promotes economic and social cohesion. It is essential that this right is fully respected throughout the European Union and is not applied in a manner that is discriminatory towards migrant women.

I support the stand of **[INSERT name of your organisation]**, the European Network of Migrant Women and the European Women's Lobby against any potential renegotiation of the European Union Directive on the Right to Family Reunification that puts migrant women's wellbeing and integration at risk.

	Name	Signature	Email
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
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8.			
9.			
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16.			

# VIDEO CLIPS ON THE RIGHT TO FAMILY REUNIFICATION

We have produced three video clips on topics related to the right to family reunification.

**WE INVITE YOU TO USE THE 3 VIDEO CLIPS TO ORGANIZE PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS:**

- **ORGANISE AN EVENT** to show them and discuss the main issues
- **UPLOAD THEM** onto your website and **SHARE** them in Facebook and Twitter



## CLIP I - LIZ

Liz cannot reach the salary level needed to qualify for family reunification. She misses her children terrible but can't afford to stop sending home the remittances. Children don't understand the waiting period and feel rejected by their parents. It is mostly children who are joining under Family Reunification policies and not spouses.

<http://youtu.be/MvFRDCYfIcM>



## CLIP II - SAHELI

Saheli is a dependent spouse. She has no rights of her own. Her presence and her residence permit in the country is dependent on her husband and on her relationship. Migrant women like Saheli endure abuse longer and suffer more. Legal dependency distorts family relations and reinforces patriarchal values.

<http://youtu.be/S433mRjDj5c>



## CLIP III - CLAUDIA

Claudia cannot join her Danish partner in Denmark, even though they love each other. The family reunification rights of EU citizens are some times better protected outside of their country of origin. Many EU citizens are forced to undergo temporary relocations to fellow Member States in order to be allowed to live with their non-EU family members in Europe.

<http://youtu.be/MvFRDCYfIcM>



## IV . RESOURCES

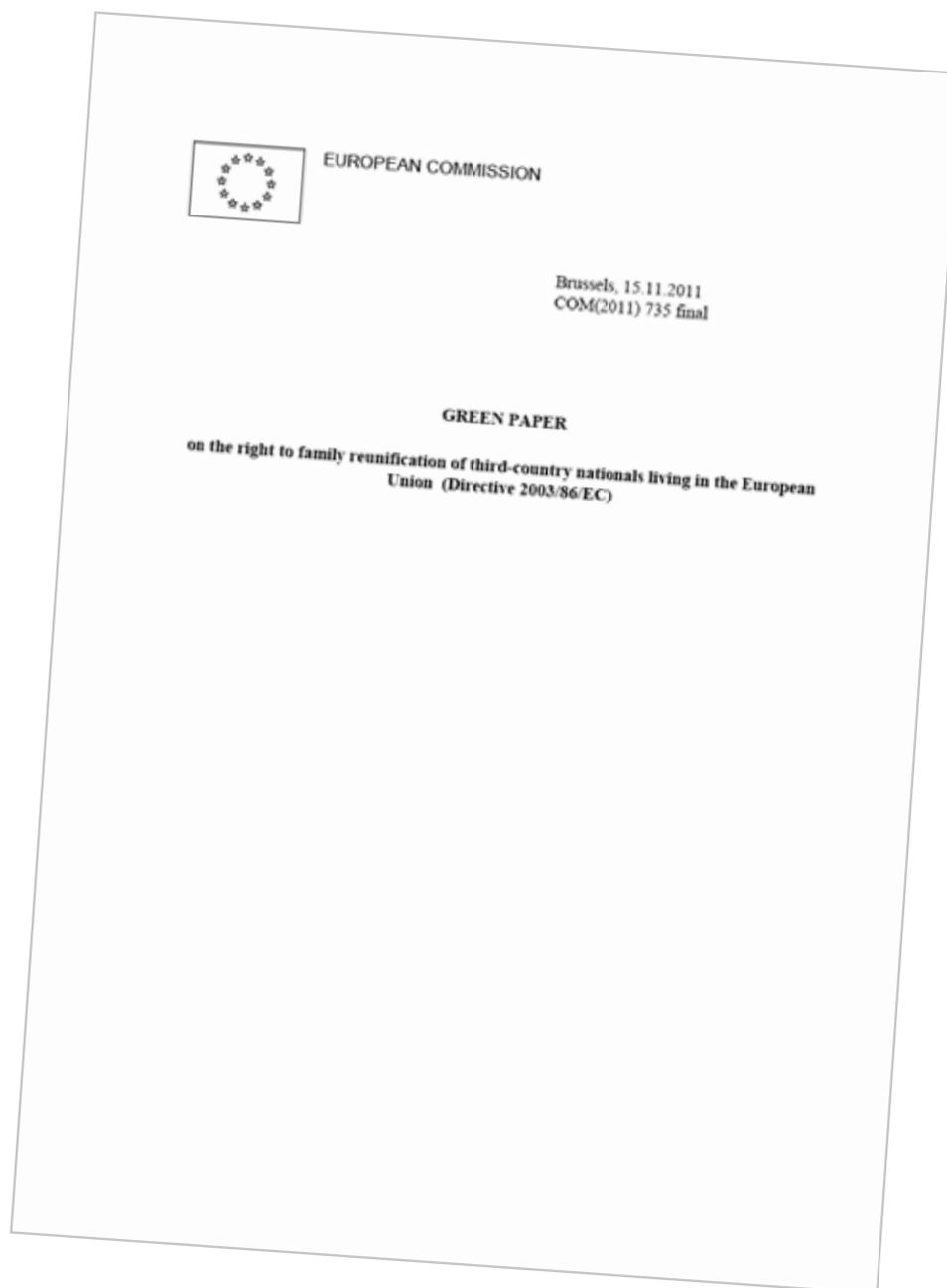
In this section:

[EUROPEAN COMMISSION GREEN PAPER ON THE RIGHT TO FAMILY REUNIFICATION](#) / [ENOMW POSITION PAPER ON THE RIGHT TO FAMILY REUNIFICATION](#) / [GLOSSARY ON RELEVANT EU INSTITUTIONS AND POLICIES](#) / [USEFUL LINKS](#) / [CONTACTS](#)

# EUROPEAN COMMISSION GREEN PAPER



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# ENoMW POSITION PAPER ON THE RIGHT TO FAMILY REUNIFICATION

**Statement on the occasion of the hearing 'Family Reunification Legislation in Europe: Is it Discriminatory for Migrant Women?', 10 November 2011, Brussels**

The ENoMW is an umbrella of migrant feminist organisations, supported by the EWL. We are united by the common understanding that migration and integration policies have to be gender sensitive as they affect migrant women and migrant men in a different way.

We participate in the hearing today because it provides us with much needed opportunity to emphasise the importance of gender sensitive migration and integration policies, in view of the upcoming Green Paper on the Right to Family Reunification.

Since its formation in 2007, the ENoMW recognises the importance of **family reunification policies** for migrant women – both for their wellbeing and for the integration chances of their families as a whole.

One of the most troublesome aspects of the family reunification policies is **the issue of dependency**, meaning one's residence permit and rights are tied to the fortunes of a primary migrant and a relationship with this migrant. When migrant women are dependent on spouses in this way, this adds distortion to, already in many cases, unequal gender balance in traditional families. The longer this dependency lasts and the harsher the conditions for autonomous status are, the stronger the patriarchal values in such families are reinforced. Dependent status is an unnatural family situation in itself, and has detrimental effects on dependent women, in terms of their social inclusion, self-confidence and realisation in life.

Recent research initiatives, such as MIPEX III, confirm that family members' access to autonomous permits is a weakness in most countries. In the wake of the upcoming review of the family reunification provisions in the EU, we urge governments in Europe **to end the policies establishing dependency between family members**.

In particular, we demand **autonomous status** for migrant women experiencing domestic violence, who are dependent on abusive spouses. For example, information from Ireland suggests that migrant women are inclined to endure domestic abuse longer, as they are threatened by the possibility to become undocumented, homeless and without means of support. The ENoMW commends countries like

Belgium, Norway, UK and Sweden for guaranteeing the autonomous status of spouses. However, we emphasise that the length of the procedure for acquiring an independent permit and support during the waiting period remain essential for abused women. It is reported that in the UK, migrant women have hard time waiting for an independent permit while subjected to the limitation called 'No recourse to public funds'.

The ENoMW is increasingly worried that **more and heavier conditions** are attached to the family reunification rights of immigrants in Europe.

**Conditions linked to housing and incomes** for example, put migrant women at a direct disadvantage because they are often low earners and often employed in low skilled jobs. They are more likely to work part time and on short term contracts. This results in migrant women having fewer chances in qualifying for family reunification with their family members.

Evidence suggests that many countries require high incomes and certain level of housing for family reunion. Denmark imposes particularly tough criteria in relation to wealth and housing. Data from the Netherlands indicate that since the conditions were tightened there, fewer women apply as sponsors for family reunification. Migrant women in Italy deem the imposed housing requirement impossible to meet. Though there are also countries which are improving in this regard, we commend for example Portugal, for acknowledging that in times of crisis the income criteria thresholds have to be corrected accordingly.

The ENoMW does not support the introduction of **language requirements** for family reunion that are in par with language tests for citizenship and long-term residence. Evidence from Poland suggests that language tests are imposed even to wives of Polish nationals too. We believe **it is unrealistic** to request from a person who has never left the country of origin to command the host country language prior to arrival, and even more unrealistic with regard to migrant women coming from regions where women have much lower education and literacy level than men. If however language test are in place, the ENoMW urges for matching the requirements, state-funded courses, as is the case with France, while providing for exceptional circumstances in which these conditions could be lifted, for example for reasons pertaining to war, age, disability, illiteracy, dyslexia and others.

On behalf of all migrant women, the ENoMW appeals to the European policy makers to start thinking of migrant women when they coin new policies and amend existing ones. We cannot emphasise strongly enough the need for realistic, life-based and common sense family reunification arrangements. Arrangements that do not hinder but rather support migrant women in their efforts to ensure integration for their families. Please support migrant women in these efforts.

Brussels, 10 November 2011



[click here to download the word document](#)

# GLOSSARY ON RELEVANT EU INSTITUTIONS AND POLICIES

## EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION:** Also referred to as 'the Commission', the European Commission is the EU's executive body and represents the interests of the Union as a whole (as opposed to the interests of individual member countries). The Commission also has offices known as 'representations' in all EU member states.<sup>21</sup>

**EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT:** The European Parliament is the only directly elected body of the European Union. The 736 Members of the European Parliament are there to represent you, the citizen. They are elected once every five years by voters right across the 27 member states of the European Union on behalf of its 500 million citizens. The European Parliament is firmly established as a co-legislator, has budgetary powers and exercises democratic control over all the EU institutions.<sup>22</sup>

**COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE EU:** The 'Council' is the EU institution where the member states' government representatives sit, i.e. the ministers of each member state with responsibility for a given area. The composition and frequency of Council meetings vary depending on the issues dealt with. Foreign ministers, for example, meet roughly once a month in the Foreign Affairs Council. Similarly, economics and finance ministers meet once a month in the Council which handles economic and financial affairs, called the ECOFIN Council.<sup>23</sup> The Council of Ministers is to be distinguished from the European Council which brings together the Heads of State and Government on an ad-hoc basis, and the Council of Europe, which is an institution outside of the framework of the EU, based in Strasbourg, France.

**EUROPEAN COURT OF JUSTICE:** The European Court of Justice constitutes the judicial authority of the European Union and, in cooperation with the courts and tribunals of the member states, it ensures the uniform application and interpretation of European Union law.<sup>24</sup>

**EUROPEAN OMBUDSMAN:** The European Ombudsman investigates complaints regarding administration in the institutions and bodies of the European Union. If you are a citizen of a member state of the European Union or reside in a member state, you can make a complaint to the European Ombudsman. Businesses, associations or other bodies with a registered office in the EU may also complain to the Ombudsman.<sup>25</sup>

## EUROPEAN UNION POLICY MAKING

**DIRECTIVE:** EU Directives lay down certain end results that must be achieved in every member state. National authorities have to adapt their laws to meet these goals, but are free to decide how to do so. Directives may concern one or more member states, or all of them. Each Directive specifies the date by which the national laws must be adapted – giving national authorities the room for manoeuvre within the deadlines necessary to take account of differing national situations. Directives are used to bring different national laws into line with each other.<sup>26</sup>

**INFRINGEMENT PROCEDURE:** Each member state is responsible for the implementation of EU law (adoption of implementing measures before a specified deadline, conformity and correct application) within its own legal system. According to Article 258 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), the European Commission is responsible for ensuring that EU law is correctly applied. Consequently, where a member state fails to comply with EU law (i.e. is in 'infringement' of EU law), the Commission has powers of its own (action for non-compliance) to try to bring the infringement to an end and, where necessary, it may refer the case to the European Court of Justice.<sup>27</sup>

**GREEN PAPER:** A Green Paper released by the European Commission is a discussion document intended to stimulate debate and launch a process of consultation, at European level, on a particular topic. A Green Paper usually presents a range of ideas and is meant to invite interested citizens or organisations to contribute views and information.<sup>28</sup>

## EUROPEAN POLICIES

**EQUALITY BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN IN EUROPEAN UNION LEGISLATION:** EU legislation on the right to Equality between women and men enforces equal pay for women and men for the same work and work of equal value; equal treatment in employment and vocational training, promotion and working conditions; equal treatment in social security (statutory and occupational schemes). It protects workers in cases of pregnancy and maternity; paternity in member states recognising such rights; specific rights for parental leave for fathers and mothers. Protection is ensured against direct and indirect discrimination based on sex, including marital or family status, as well as protection against harassment based on sex and sexual harassment. Victims of discrimination can go to court and are protected against retaliation. The legislation provides for the reversal of the burden of proof (the

presumed perpetrator of discrimination must prove that he/she did not discriminate in any way) and sanctions for those who have perpetrated discrimination, as well as compensation for victims. The EU promotes preventive measures against discrimination by employers, especially in cases of harassment based on gender and sexual harassment. Positive action is endorsed for under-represented groups, equality plans in companies are encouraged and the role of social partners and dialogue with non-governmental organisations are emphasised. Moreover, EU legislation stipulates a requirement to have bodies promoting equality between women and men in every member state.<sup>22</sup>

**EUROPEAN CHARTER OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS:** According to the Treaties, the European Union is based on the values of human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. Equality between men and women must be ensured in all areas, including employment, work and pay. The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union brings together into a single text all the personal, civic, political, economic and social rights enjoyed by people within the EU. The Charter became legally binding across the EU with the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon. The EU institutions must respect the rights enshrined in the Charter. The Charter also applies to EU member states, but only when they implement EU law.<sup>30</sup>

**RIGHT TO FAMILY LIFE:** Article 7 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights says that everyone has the right to respect for his or her private and family life, home and communications.<sup>31</sup>

**DIRECTIVE ON THE RIGHT TO FAMILY REUNIFICATION:** The aim of the Directive is to establish common rules of Community law relating to the right to family reunification of third-country nationals residing lawfully on the territory of the member states. At the moment, this right is recognised only by international legal instruments, in particular the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of 1950. At national level the situation is very patchy. Family reunification protects the family and makes it easier to integrate nationals of non-member countries into the member states. It should thus be a recognised right throughout the Union.<sup>32</sup>

**STOCKHOLM PROGRAMME:** The Stockholm Programme sets out the European Union's priorities in the areas of justice, freedom and security for the period 2010-2014. Building on the achievements of its predecessors, the Tampere and Hague Programmes, it aims to meet future challenges and further strengthen the areas of justice, freedom and security with actions focusing on the interests and needs of citizens.<sup>33</sup>

**THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS:** The term 'third country' is used in the Treaties, where it means a country that is not a member of the European Union.<sup>34</sup>

## OTHER

**MIPEX:** MIPEX is a fully interactive tool and reference guide for assessing, comparing and improving integration policy. MIPEX measured integration policies in all European Union member states and in Norway, Switzerland, Canada and the USA up to 31 May 2010. Using 148 policy indicators, MIPEX provides a detailed, multi-dimensional picture of migrants' opportunities to participate in society by assessing governments' commitment to integration. By measuring policies and their implementation it reveals whether all residents are guaranteed equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities.<sup>35</sup>

**INTEGRATION:** Integration, in a sociological context, refers to stable, cooperative relations within a clearly defined social system. Integration can also be viewed as a process – that of strengthening relationships within a social system, and of introducing new actors and groups into the system and its institutions. The integration of immigrants is primarily a process: if this process succeeds, the society is said to be integrated.<sup>36</sup>

# USEFUL LINKS

## OFFICIAL EUROPEAN UNION DOCUMENTS

The Stockholm Programme

- an open and secure Europe serving and protecting citizens (2010/C 115/01):

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2010:115:0001:0038:EN:PDF>

Council Directive 2003/86/EC of 22 September 2003 on the right to family reunification:

<http://eurlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2003:251:0012:0018:en:PDF>

Report from the European Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the application of Directive 2003/86/EC on the Right to Family Reunification:

<http://eurlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2008:0610:FIN:EN:PDF>

MIPEX:

<http://www.mipex.eu/family-reunion>

Green Paper on the Right to Family Reunification in different languages:

[http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/news/consulting\\_public/consulting\\_0023\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/news/consulting_public/consulting_0023_en.htm)

## USEFUL TOOLKITS

Women's rights advocacy toolkit:

<http://www.womankind.org.uk/policy-and-resources/womens-rights-advocacy-toolkit/>

## USEFUL WEBSITES

Information about the EU Directive on the Right to Family Reunification:

[http://europa.eu/legislation\\_summaries/justice\\_freedom\\_security/free\\_movement\\_of\\_persons\\_asylum\\_immigration/l33118\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/justice_freedom_security/free_movement_of_persons_asylum_immigration/l33118_en.htm)

European Policy Centre:

[http://www.epc.eu/pub\\_details.php?pub\\_id=1369&cat\\_id=1](http://www.epc.eu/pub_details.php?pub_id=1369&cat_id=1)

European Network against Racism:

[http://www.enar-eu.org/Page\\_Generale.asp?DocID=15289&lb=2685](http://www.enar-eu.org/Page_Generale.asp?DocID=15289&lb=2685)

European Commission Home Affairs:

[http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/policies/immigration/immigration\\_family\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/policies/immigration/immigration_family_en.htm)

European Council on Refugees and Exiles:

<http://www.ecre.org/>

Migration Policy Group:

<http://www.migpolgroup.com/>

Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants:

<http://picum.org/en>

International Centre for Migration Policy Development:

<http://www.icmpd.org/>

Southall Black Sisters:

<http://www.southallblacksisters.org.uk/>

## IMPORTANT PUBLICATIONS

Migrant Policy Group (2011): MPG Briefings for the Green Paper on Family Reunion:

[http://www.migpolgroup.org/publications\\_detail.php?id=331](http://www.migpolgroup.org/publications_detail.php?id=331)

European Policy Centre (2011): Conditions for family reunion under strain. A comparative study in nine EU member states. Yves Pascouau in collaboration with Henri Labayle. King Baudouin Foundation, European Policy Centre, Odysseus Network.

Eleonore Kofman, Annie Phizacklea, Rosemary Sales, Parvati Raghuram:

Gender and International Migration in Europe: Employment, Welfare, and Politics. Routledge.

Albert Kraller (2010): Civic Stratification, Gender and Family Migration Policies in Europe.

Final Report. Revised and updated public version. BMWF/ICMPD

[http://research.icmpd.org/fileadmin/Research-Website/Test\\_content/FINAL\\_Report\\_Family\\_Migration\\_Policies\\_Online\\_FINAL.pdf](http://research.icmpd.org/fileadmin/Research-Website/Test_content/FINAL_Report_Family_Migration_Policies_Online_FINAL.pdf)

Albert Kraller, Eleonore Kofman, Martin Kohli, Camille Schmoll (eds):

Gender, Generations and the Family in International Migration. IMISCOE-AUP Reports Series. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press.

# CONTACTS - ENoMW MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

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www.medinstgenderstudies.org

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www.femmes-med.org

## Lithuania

### BUSINESSWOMEN ORGANISATION OF LITHUANIAN ETHNIC GROUPS

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## Poland

### POLAND FOUNDATION OF DEVELOPMENT "BEYOND THE BORDERS"

Fundacja Rozwoju „Oprócz Granic”  
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www.bazy.ngo.pl

## Ireland

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Dublin 2,  
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Information Service (01) 674 0200  
Administration (01) 674 0202  
F: (01) 645 8059  
e-mail: info@immigrantcouncil.ie  
www.immigrantcouncil.ie

## Italy

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### FATIMA WOMEN'S NETWORK

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## Finland

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www.graal.org.pt

## Greece

### CULTURAL HOUSE OF ALBANIAN IMMIGRANTS IN GREECE

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## Romania

### ASOCIATIA CULTURA PACII

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## Europe / Belgium

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F: +32 02/219 84 51  
www.womenlobby.org

## ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup>The OECD suggests that families who can reunite quickly will catch up more quickly in learning the language and adjusting to their new society: See website MPG: [http://www.mipex.eu/blog/european-commission-asks-how-long-should-families-wait-to-reunite\\*more-1184](http://www.mipex.eu/blog/european-commission-asks-how-long-should-families-wait-to-reunite*more-1184)

<sup>2</sup>Eurostat, statistic 34/2011

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.

<sup>4</sup>2009 Global Trends: Refugees, Asylum-seekers, Returnees, Internally Displaced and Stateless Persons Division

<sup>5</sup><http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/publications/FS42%20-%20Genre%20et%20Migration%20-%20FR.pdf>

<sup>6</sup>Eurostat statistic 43/2011

<sup>7</sup>Ibid.

<sup>8</sup>Family Reunion Legislation in Europe: Is it discriminatory to migrant women? ENoMW and EWL, 2011; Brussels.

<sup>9</sup>Indicators of Immigrant Integration: A Pilot Study, Eurostat

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<sup>14</sup>For more information, see the International Organisation for Migration: <http://www.iom.ch/jahia/jahia/about-migration/developing-migration-policy/migration-family/international-law-family-reunification>

<sup>15</sup>Report from the European Commission to the European Parliament and the Council; Brussels 8.10.2008

<sup>16</sup>“Family Reunion Legislation in Europe: Is it Discriminatory for Migrant Women?”, EWL, Eleonore Kofman

<sup>17</sup><http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/08/st13/st13440.en08.pdf>

<sup>18</sup>European Policy Centre: <http://www.epc.eu/>

<sup>19</sup>To see the question, please refer to Green Paper.

<sup>20</sup>[http://www.migpolgroup.org/public/docs/198.MPG\\_Four\\_Briefings\\_for\\_the\\_Green\\_Paper\\_on\\_Family\\_Reunion\\_November\\_2011.pdf](http://www.migpolgroup.org/public/docs/198.MPG_Four_Briefings_for_the_Green_Paper_on_Family_Reunion_November_2011.pdf)

<sup>21</sup>[http://ec.europa.eu/about/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/about/index_en.htm)

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<sup>24</sup>[http://curia.europa.eu/jcms/jcms/Jo2\\_6999/](http://curia.europa.eu/jcms/jcms/Jo2_6999/)

<sup>25</sup><http://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/en/atyourservice/home.faces>

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<sup>29</sup>[http://europa.eu/legislation\\_summaries/employment\\_and\\_social\\_policy/equality\\_between\\_men\\_and\\_women/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/employment_and_social_policy/equality_between_men_and_women/index_en.htm)

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<sup>31</sup>[http://www.eucharter.org/home.php?page\\_id=14](http://www.eucharter.org/home.php?page_id=14)

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