

# European Union

## The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)

The European Fundamental Rights Agency has already shown its commitment to monitoring the situation of LGBT rights and social condition in the European Union. Its reports on Homophobia and Discrimination on Grounds of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in the EU Member States (Legal Analysis, Part I, 2008; and The Social Situation, Part II, 2009) include country reports that are an important resource tool. In addition, the reports include a number of recommendations to the Union and the Member States, which are a great support for our advocacy.

As it is obvious from these achievements, the FRA is already fully aware of the need to take actions aiming at the improvement of the condition of LGBT people, including in the field of bias violence. However, whenever significant changes happen in the national legislation or in the social situation, FRA updates its country reports.

*ILGA-Europe is in contact with the FRA. For questions about reporting to the agency, please contact ILGA-Europe's office: [joel@ilga-europe.org](mailto:joel@ilga-europe.org)*

## The European Commission

The European Commission monitors annually the progress made by the Western Balkans and Turkey towards European integration and sets out new targets for the countries to further progress towards that integration. The reports highlight the progress made by the candidate and potential candidate countries as well as the challenges they face and the reforms they should undertake in order to meet the conditions set for the EU membership. The Commission's progress reports are one of the most important tools at hand for the EU in influencing the human rights situation of vulnerable minority groups in candidate and potential candidate countries. It is, therefore, very important to provide the European Commission with detailed documentation on human rights violations against LGBT people in all the countries engaged in the Enlargement process.

ILGA-Europe and its national members have already developed a strategy to submit contributions to country Progress Reports, so that LGBT rights can be taken into consideration.

*For questions about these submissions, please contact ILGA-Europe's office: [lilit@ilga-europe.org](mailto:lilit@ilga-europe.org)*

Communicating information on concrete cases to the Commission can also be useful when it helps us to produce evidences of the need to take actions for the enforcement of existing EU legislation, as well as evidences of the need to consider proposing new legislation. For example, reporting has been one of our strategies in the debate on the new directive against discriminations. In coming months, it can also prove to be a very much needed strategy to convince the European institutions of the importance of the adoption of EU provisions against all bias violence.

In 2008, the EU adopted a Framework Decision on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law. Evidence of its importance in the documentation and the prevention of related hate violence, as opposed to the lack of data about other forms of hate violence, would be particularly welcome. All evidences of the importance of hate crime laws in the documentation and the prevention of hate violence are welcome.

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