

MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF REGISTERED PARTNERSHIPS  
AND SAME-SEX MARRIAGES  
WITHIN THE TERRITORY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION:

A RESTRICTION ON THE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT  
OF E-U CITIZENS AND MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILY?

**An international conference in Strasbourg  
organised by l'Autre Cercle, France**

**November 18 and 19 2011**

## L'Autre Cercle – International Conference 2011

**Title :** Mutual recognition of registered partnerships and same-sex marriages within the territory of the European Union: a restriction on the freedom of movement of E-U citizens and members of their family?

**Organiser :** l'Autre Cercle, France

**Place :** Strasbourg

**Duration :** 2 days

**Dates :** 18 and 19 November 2011

**Objectives :**

- Identify the reasons why the non-recognition of registered partnerships and same-sex marriages constitutes a restriction on the freedom of movement and establishment of E-U citizens and their families within the territory of the European Union.
- Map out potential action programs aimed at national and European institutions and politicians aimed at encouraging them to take positive action to ensure that European principals and directives are effectively applied to all persons without distinction of sexual orientation.

**Organisation :**

The conference is scheduled to take place over a two day period (a Friday and a Saturday, following on directly from a four day European parliamentary session at Strasbourg)

- clearly-focused workshops alternating with a limited number of plenary sessions featuring keynote speakers and/or round table discussions
- a multiplicity of workshops so as to enable
  - conference delegates to choose which ones to attend depending on their individual centers of interest, degree of knowledge and awareness of the issues
  - coverage of all the themes that stem directly from our principal issue :  
« mutual recognition of registered partnerships and same-sex marriages within the territory of the European Union : a restriction on the freedom of movement of E-U citizens and their members of their family ? »
  - having recognized experts as workshop leaders
- The first day of the conference (Friday) will be held in the building of one of the European institutions based in Strasbourg and the second day will take place at a location provided by the city of Strasbourg.

**Targeted keynote speakers, workshop leaders and round table participants**

- high-level representatives from European Union member states which have official LGBTI policies
- elected officials and/or civil servants from European Union member states who support LGBTI policies
- researchers and academics who have a common interest in the conference theme.
- representatives of the European Commission
- representatives of the Council of Europe and of the European court of Human Rights in Strasbourg
- corporations that have policies on HR, Diversity or Corporate Social Responsibility that specifically take account of the rights of LGBTI salaried employees and staff.
- LGBTI NGOs from member states of the European Union (for example, the COC, RFSL etc)

**Targeted delegates**

- Members and staff of LGBTI NGOs from European Union member states (including former Eastern bloc countries), from Russia and from international LGBTI associations
- European Parliament members (such as Michael Cashman and Ulrike Lunacek)
- European multinational corporations with or without HR, Diversity or Corporate Social Responsibility policies that specifically take account of the rights of LGBTI salaried employees and staff.
- representatives of national or European Employers' Organisations
- representatives of national or European Trade Unions sharing a common interest in the conference theme
- civil servants or other representatives of government administrations from European Union member states with or without official LGBTI policies

## What is l'Autre Cercle ?

The Autre Cercle is one of the principal French LGBT associations. Its members are professional people, both men and women, working in either the public or the private sector or in the liberal professions. What these people have in common is that they are LGBT activists who wish to create and be part of a friendly and socially responsible network of like-minded people.

Founded 12 years ago (in 1998), the Autre Cercle, which was originally based in Paris, became a national Federation of 11 regional associations in 2002 and today has more than 600 members in all the major cities of France.

The Autre Cercle's key objective the fight, against homophobia, lesbophobia et transphobia in the workplace.

In 2003, the association published a White paper « Homophobia in the Workplace, does it still exist ? » and organised the first ever seminar on this subject in France at the Hôtel de Ville in Paris. The same year, the association founded a Best Practices Watch and created a Training and Awareness Raising group.

The Autre Cercle is a member of the Diversity Commissions of the French National Association of Human Resources Directors and of the Centre for Young Directors and was selected as a member of the French Government's 2006 "National Campaign for Equal Opportunity". During 2006 and 2007, it was also one of four associations from different European countries to contribute to the DELEDIOS Sexism and Lesbophobia programme which was an integral part of the E U TRACE project.

The Autre Cercle is a member of the Steering Committee of the High Commission Against Discriminations and for Equality (the HALDE) and of the Standardization Committee of the French National Diversity Certification Programme.

Finally, the Autre Cercle is a member of the Inter-LGBT (a national network of around 60 French LGBT associations), the Geriatric Ethics Committee of the Paris Public Hospitals Administration and of RAVAD ( a French network of Ressources to Assist Victims of Discrimination).

On an international level, the Autre Cercle is a member of ILGA-Europe, was a founder member of EGMA (the European Gay and Lesbian Managers Association) and is a member of the IGLCC (the International Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce,

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- Our website : [www.autrecercle.org](http://www.autrecercle.org)
- Conference organiser : Geoffrey Ross ([compteacgeoff@yahoo.fr](mailto:compteacgeoff@yahoo.fr))