In May, the courts reviewed the decision of the Migration Service which could lead to the possible extradition of Salman Mukayev to Russia. Mukayev was previously detained by the authorities in Chechnya on charges of homosexuality and allegedly tortured.

After weeks of debate, Austria joined the European Commission’s proceedings against Hungary in late March and expressed a firm stance against its anti-LGBT propaganda law. The Austrian Embassy in Tehran, Iran outed an Iranian citizen living in Austria. The Ombudsperson requested a formal apology from the Embassy.

Government-affiliated media published a number of articles undermining international agencies and their support of LGBTI people’s rights. State-controlled national television channel AzTV accused the USA of “bringing the LGBT system into politics” in one of their programmes.

BELGIUM
Belgium joined the European Commission’s infringement proceedings against Hungary over its anti-LGBT legislation.

BULGARIA
Bilitis’s study found that in the last three years 39% of LGBT respondents had difficulty finding a job. On May 17, Sofia Pride Business Forum took place for the first time, attracting over 60 representatives of different companies.

CYPRUS
Cyprus acted as vice-chair in the Council of Europe’s newly formed Working Group on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, Gender Expression and Sex Characteristics (GT-ADI-SOGI) of the Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI) this year.

Civil society expressed alarm that Cyprus did not join the European Commission’s infringement proceedings against Hungary.

Several politicians criticised Hungary’s ongoing crackdown on LGBT+ rights, such as fining a bookstore for selling a YA novel with queer characters. Nevertheless, Czechia did not join the European Commission’s infringement proceedings against Hungary.

The Ministry of Development redirected aid to Uganda following consultations with civil society after the country passed its harshest ever anti-LGBT legislation this spring.

France joined the European Commission’s Infringement proceedings against Hungary over its anti-LGBT legislation.

The French envoy for LGBT+ rights cancelled his visit to Cameroon after he was declared persona non grata.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced a 2 million EURO fund for French embassies to support LGBT+ human rights defenders.

The attacks against Tbilisi Pride this year were seen by many as a threat to Georgia’s EU candidacy status (see under Freedom of Assembly). In September, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy said during their country visit in September that “more signs of progress” were required.

On November 8th, the European Commission recommended that Georgia is granted candidate status for joining the EU. The European Commission’s report on Georgia critically evaluates a number of LGBTQI protections, including hate crime, hate speech, LGR, etc.

On December 14, Georgia was granted EU candidate status, on the understanding that the steps set out in the European Commission’s recommendation of 8 November 2023 are taken.
GERMANY
Germany joined the European Commission's infringement proceedings against Hungary over its anti-LGBT legislation.

The Federal Foreign Office and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development presented their new feminist foreign and development policy guidelines.

The German government included sexual orientation and gender identity in the update to its international criminal law legislation in October.

A German citizen was fined and deported from Russia for engaging in so-called ‘LGBT propaganda’.

HUNGARY
(See under Freedom of Expression)

In May, the European Parliament adopted a resolution expressing concern about Hungary’s ability to take on the EU Presidency in 2024, as it has systematically undermined the EU’s fundamental values. In 2022, the EP passed a resolution which identified Hungary as a “hybrid regime of electoral autocracy” instead of a democracy.

In June, Hungary also refused to support the EU Justice Affairs Council’s conclusions on the protection of LGBTI communities in Europe.

LITHUANIA
LGL held the first ever conference focusing on employment, Direction: Employment. Strengthening LGBTQ Workplace Inclusion, which was joined by the Minister of Economy and Innovation and several Ambassadors.

IRELAND
Ireland joined the European Commission’s infringement proceedings against Hungary over its anti-LGBT legislation.

ITALY
In March, the Senate voted against Italy’s support for the European Commission regulation for cross-border recognition of same-sex parents.

LUXEMBOURG
Luxembourg joined the European Commission’s infringement proceedings against Hungary in April.

MALTA
Malta joined the European Commission’s infringement proceedings against Hungary over its anti-LGBT legislation.

In May, activists gathered outside the Honorary Consulate of Slovakia in Malta to protest on the de facto ban on legal gender recognition.

NETHERLANDS
The Netherlands joined the European Commission’s infringement proceedings against Hungary over its anti-LGBT legislation.

POLAND
Poland did not join the European Commission’s infringement proceedings against Hungary over its anti-LGBT legislation.

Poland refused to support the EU Justice Affairs Council’s conclusions on the protection of LGBTI communities in Europe. The Minister of Justice said the conclusions force “special LGBT rights” on people.

The European Commission continued to withhold EU funds due to rule of law violations.

PORTUGAL
Portugal joined the European Commission’s infringement proceedings against Hungary over its anti-LGBT legislation.

ROMANIA
Romania did not join the European Commission’s infringement proceedings against Hungary over its anti-LGBT legislation.

RUSSIA
24 February marked the one year anniversary of Russian troops invading Ukraine - the war continues to date. The intensified onslaught on LGBT rights was tied into the narrative of the invasion this year. The parliament adopted amendments to the law conscription and military duty several times this year (see here, here and
here). Civil society continued providing information to those participating in protests or objecting to the war and conscription. Trans women have been subject to the draft if they had not changed their legal gender and many were barred from leaving the country. In 2023, the decree prohibiting dismissal from military service continued to be in effect until mobilisation was stopped. This prevents LGBT people who oppose the war in Ukraine from leaving military service at the risk of being imprisoned.

SLOVAKIA
Slovakia did not join the European Commission’s infringement proceedings against Hungary over its anti-LGBTI+ legislation.

SLOVENIA
Slovenia joined the European Commission’s infringement proceedings against Hungary over its anti-LGBT legislation.

SWEDEN
Sweden joined the European Commission’s infringement proceedings against Hungary over its anti-LGBT legislation.

As one of the final steps of the Swedish Presidency of the EU, the EU Justice Affairs Council adopted conclusions on the protection of LGBTI communities in Europe.

UKRAINE
24 February marked one year since Russian troops invaded Ukraine - the war continues to date. The war has greatly increased the visibility of LGBTI people, with some estimates saying between 2-7% of the army is from the community.

A year after Ukraine received EU candidate status, the European Commission’s report welcomed the advances to date and encouraged Ukraine to maintain progress, including on family rights and combating hate speech.