



European Network Against Racism
Réseau européen contre le racisme



Group of the Progressive Alliance of
Socialists & Democrats
in the European Parliament

LAUNCH OF ENAR'S SHADOW REPORT ON DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT

HOSTED BY THE GROUP OF THE PROGRESSIVE ALLIANCE OF SOCIALISTS AND DEMOCRATS
17TH MARCH 2014 15:00-17:00

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, BRUSSELS, ALTIERO SPINELLI BUILDING, ROOM A7F387

As in previous years, the European Network Against Racism (ENAR) is launching its Shadow Report on Racism in Europe to mark the International Week Against Racism. Since 2004, ENAR's annual Shadow Reports have proved to be a major tool for advocacy and coordinated action for anti-racist civil society towards national governments, the European institutions, international bodies and the media.

The 2012/2013 edition looks at the specific situation of racism and related discriminatory practices in employment. It reviews manifestations of discrimination on the grounds of ethnic origin and religion/beliefs in the labour market in Europe, illustrated by examples in different EU Member States, and examines how EU countries attempt to combat these discriminatory practices.

High unemployment among migrants and ethnic and religious minorities continues to be problematic, especially for Roma and for low-skilled and non-EU migrants. The economic and financial crisis has further exacerbated the employment gap between minorities and migrants on the one hand, and the majority population on the other. At the same time, political and public discourses on migrants and minorities are increasingly portraying them as economic, security and cultural threats.

Employment is the gateway to social inclusion. **Access to quality work is a high priority among voters in the context of the upcoming European elections.** Estimates show that ethnic and religious minorities could represent 12% of the total European population. As for migrants, they constitute 5% of the total working age population of the European Union. **How will European Parliament candidates address the question of access to employment for minorities and migrants?**

Combating discrimination in employment is one of the long-standing engagements of the European Union and can be considered a way to increase the employment rate, in line with the Europe 2020 strategy target on employment. How could concerted efforts to combat discrimination in employment support Member States in reaching the EU 2020 target?

The launch will include a presentation of the key findings of the 2012/2013 Shadow Report by ENAR, highlighting obstacles faced by minorities and migrants in entering and remaining in the European labour market. The launch will also include a presentation of some grassroots best practices. The event will then be followed by a discussion between various MEPs, ENAR and civil society representatives on discrimination affecting minorities and migrants in employment and the role that the European Parliament might play in improving their situation.

Agenda:

- 15:00 – 15:30 **Opening remarks**
Michael Privot, ENAR Director
Alejandro Cercas, MEP, Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats TBC
- 15:30 – 15:45 **Presentation of the key findings of ENAR Shadow Report on Discrimination in Employment**
Sarah Isal, ENAR chair
- 15:45 – 16:50 **Employment discrimination affecting minorities and migrants and the role the European Parliament might play to improve their employment situation**
Debate moderated by Honor Mahony, Senior Editor at EUobserver
Claude Moraes, MEP, Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats TBC
Inês Cristina Zuber, MEP, Confederal Group of the European United Left - Nordic Green Left TBC
Louise Callier, Belgian for Equal Opportunities and Against Racism
Alvaro Gutierrez, Employment Department, Fundación Secretariado Gitano
Kari Käsper, Executive Director, Estonian Human Rights Centre
- 16:50 – 17:00 **Closing remarks**
Kinga Göncz, MEP, Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats

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