



EU bibliographies: proposed equal treatment directive.

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Author: Emma Clark

Section International Affairs and Defence Section

Under its 'Renewed Social Agenda' the European Commission adopted on 2 July 2008 a non-discrimination package including a proposal for a new directive on equal treatment prohibiting discrimination on grounds of age, disability, sexual orientation and religion or belief outside the employment sphere. This Note brings together documents relevant to the proposed "Equal Treatment Directive" and its scrutiny in the UK and EU. It is not an attempt to define policy in this area. For information on policy developments contact Vincent Keter on extn 4317 (Equality, and age discrimination), Wendy Wilson on extn 5615 (Disability discrimination) and Lucinda Maer on extn 6217 (Religious discrimination).

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1 Proposal for a Directive on implementing the principle of equal treatment

Proposal for a Council Directive on implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, [11531/2008](#), COM(2008)426, 7 July 2008

1.1 Treaty base

The proposal is based on Article 13(1) EC Treaty:

Without prejudice to the other provisions of this Treaty and within the limits of the powers conferred by it upon the Community, the Council, acting unanimously on a proposal from the Commission and after consulting the European Parliament, may take appropriate action to combat discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.

1.2 Related documents

Commission Staff Working Document accompanying the Proposal for a Council Directive on implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. [Impact assessment](#). 11531/2008/ADD1, SEC(2008)2180, 7 July 2008.

Commission Staff Working Document accompanying the Proposal for a Council Directive on implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientations. [Summary of the impact assessment](#). 11531/2008/ADD2, SEC(2008)2181, 7 July 2008.

EU proposes protection from discrimination beyond the workplace. Commission [press release IP/08/1071](#), 2 July 2008

Commission proposal to ensure equal treatment beyond the workplace. Commission memo [MEMO/08/461](#), 2 July 2008.

[UK Consultation](#) on the European Commission Proposal for an Equal Treatment Directive, Government Equalities Office, May 2009.

[Impact assessment](#) of draft EC equal treatment directive, Government Equalities Office, May 2009.

[Explanatory memorandum](#), Government Equalities Office, 14 July 2008.

Ministerial correspondence, Government Equalities Office, [27 October 2009](#), [24 March 2009](#), and [25 February 2009](#).

For additional relevant documents, see

European Parliament [Legislative Observatory](#)

European Commission [PreLex](#)

2 EU scrutiny

The draft Directive is subject to the consultation procedure. This procedure is outlined in Standard Note SN/IA/2120 [The European Parliament: its role and powers](#). It is also explained on the [Europa Internet](#) glossary.

EP final report [A6-0149/2009](#), 20 March 2009. Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs. Rapporteur: Kathalijne Maria Buitenweg.

European Parliament legislative resolution [P6_TA\(2009\)0211](#) of 2 April 2009 on the proposal for a Council directive on implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.

Committee of the Regions [Opinion](#), 17 June 2009.

3 UK Scrutiny

3.1 House of Commons

House of Commons – European Scrutiny Committee
Fifteenth report, 2008-09, 1 April 2009, [HC 19-xiii](#)

House of Commons – European Scrutiny Committee
Thirtieth report, 2007-08, 16 July 2008, [HC 16-xxvii](#)

3.2 House of Lords

Progress of Scrutiny - House of Lords papers, 15 January 2010, [EUC-3 2009-10](#). Sub-Committee G – Social Policy and Consumer Affairs

Documents held under scrutiny, awaiting the outcome of correspondence with Ministers:
Sifted 3 July 2008 (Explanatory Memorandum received 14 July 2008).

Letters to the Government 18 July 2008, 13 March 2009, 23 April 2009, 11 June 2009, 20 November 2009 - Vera Baird QC MP, Solicitor General, Government Equalities Office.

Letters to the Chairman 25 February 2009, 27 March 2009, 14 May 2009, 12 November 2009. Request for response to various points and for information on progress of negotiations.

4 Further material

Internet

Equality and Human Rights Commission, [EU Equal Treatment Directive](#) Internet page.

Press articles

Daily Telegraph, 3 August 2009, p.2, "EU equality law is an 'instrument of oppression', Roman Catholic bishops warn".

Sunday Telegraph, 12 April 2009, p.8, "EU law may force faith schools to take atheists Anti-discrimination directive could also make churches perform gay marriage ceremonies".