

AS/Ega/Platform (2024) 01
16 April 2024

Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination

Parliamentary Platform for the rights of LGBTI people in Europe

Draft work programme 2024-2025 (duration of the project VC 3742)

Objectives

In accordance with Resolution 2417 (2022) “Combating rising hate against LGBTI people in Europe”, the task of the Platform is “to facilitate co-operation between national parliaments aimed at promoting full and effective equality for LGBTI people throughout the continent”.

In concrete terms, this means promoting LGBTI equality in Europe through cooperation between the national parliaments brought together within the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

Composition

In accordance with the terms of reference of the Platform (AS/Ega/Inf (2022) 18), the composition of the Platform is as follows:

Members of the Parliamentary Assembly appointed by their national delegation and by specified committees, Partners for Democracy, observers to the Assembly,

Associate member appointed by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe,

Possibility of cooperating with other, similar networks (such as the European Parliament’s LGBTI Intergroup).

Work is coordinated by the General Rapporteur on the rights of LGBTI people (since March 2024: Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo, Monaco, ALDE).

Resources

The Platform’s activities are funded through voluntary contributions made by national delegations to the Assembly and member State governments. Some activities conducted in the framework of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination may be funded through the Ordinary budget of the Parliamentary Assembly.

Contributions and in-kind support are provided by member States for the organisation of events in national parliaments (making meeting rooms available, administrative support...).

Working methods and activities

▪ **Thematic activities during plenary sessions and Committee meetings**

The Platform will hold thematic meetings in the framework of planned PACE activities (sessions, committee meetings), within the limits of the human and financial resources available.

Possibility of holding up to two meetings per year.

Themes proposed for 2024-2025 (non-exhaustive and non-limitative list):

- Addressing and combating discrimination and violence against transgender people.
- Equality and enhanced healthcare access for LGBTI people in Europe.

▪ **Events in national parliaments**

Possibility of organising events in national parliaments or in other frameworks:

- Thematic conferences on current issues, aiming to contribute to promoting LGBTI equality in Europe, in accordance with the objective of the Platform. An event could be held, as an example, on protection of private and family life: rainbow families;
- Peer-to-peer seminars and workshops in national parliaments to support the adoption of legislative texts aiming to advance the rights and equality of LGBTI people.

▪ **Communication, publications**

In addition to the activities mentioned above, diverse publications could be prepared and disseminated, aimed at increasing the visibility of the Platform and of the work already carried out by the Assembly to promote LGBTI equality. Budget allowing, a handbook for parliamentarians could be prepared.

“Simple” publications:

- Update of the presentation leaflet (English/French);
- Collected adopted texts of the Assembly (English/French).

Publication requiring a higher level of funding:

- Expert contract for drafting a handbook for parliamentarians on how to work in their national parliaments to promote the rights of LGBTI people, and its translation into other languages, according to levels of voluntary contributions.

Visibility:

- Development of the Platform’s online presence through social media, via the webpage and X account of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination (@PACE_Equality), as well as the main Assembly and Council of Europe websites. Creation of targeted visibility campaigns to mark events and special “days” or “weeks”.

Co-operation

Sustained co-operation with all stakeholders with an interest in the rights of LGBTI people will be maintained in order to ensure the relevance of these activities, and in particular with:

Commissioner for Human Rights,
Council of Europe Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sex Characteristics Unit,
European Parliament LGBTI Intergroup,
UN Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity,
EU Fundamental Rights Agency,