

# On the Road to Effective Equality

New responses to racism and intolerance needed?



High-level  
Conference for ECRI's  
25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Organised by the European Commission  
against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)  
under the French Presidency of the Council  
of Europe Committee of Ministers

Paris, France  
26-27 September 2019

[www.coe.int/ECRI](http://www.coe.int/ECRI)



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## High-level Conference for ECRI's 25th Anniversary

# On the Road to Effective Equality

## New responses to racism and intolerance needed?

### Concept note

Promoting equality and combating racism and intolerance are crucial for Europe's future. The efforts already made towards greater equality have improved the living conditions of many Europeans, fostered more inclusive societies and contributed to safeguarding stability, peace and security in Europe. At the same time, fears still exist and are often instrumentalised by nationalist populism and hate speech. These fears generate racism, xenophobia, antisemitism and intolerance and once again undermine the foundations of a prosperous and inclusive Europe.

Twenty-five years ago, the Council of Europe member states decided to join forces to counter the threat from racism and intolerance and established the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI). ECRI deals with all forms of racism and intolerance, whether based on skin colour, language, religion, nationality, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation or gender identity. ECRI's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which coincides with the Council of Europe's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, provides the opportunity to take stock of the progress achieved, tackle the present and emerging challenges and explore how to increase the impact of the actions of the member states and ECRI.

This conference, organised under the auspices of the French Presidency of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers, aims at consolidating the future work of the member states and ECRI in this demanding environment. It will review the achievements and challenges over the last 25 years, examine the main trends in the fields of equality and the fight against racism, and intolerance and shape further action in these fields. There will be a specific focus on two particularly important topics: the inclusion in society of persons exposed to racism and intolerance on account of their affiliation, real or presumed, to a group, and the management of the opportunities and risks – including the spread of hate speech – that new technologies and the Internet bring with regard to equality, racism, intolerance and discrimination.

It is our hope that this conference will generate new momentum, increased commitment and innovative tools for all those striving to win the struggle for effective equality, inclusion and cohesion in the whole society.



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### On the Road to Effective Equality New responses to racism and intolerance needed?

#### Programme

**Venue:** Ségur-Fontenoy Building, 20 Avenue de Ségur, 75007 Paris

**Thursday, 26 September 2019**

***Security check, registration and welcome*** (12.30 - 1.30 pm)

**Opening session** (1.30 - 2.15 pm)

Welcoming words by Jean-Paul Lehnert, Chair of ECRI

Opening statements

- High representative of France
- Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, Deputy Secretary General, Council of Europe
- Liliane Maury Pasquier, President of the Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe

The Perspective of the European Convention on Human Rights

- Address by Linos-Alexander Sicilianos, President of the European Court of Human Rights

**1st session – Reality check after 25 years: Are we winning or losing the struggle for equality?**  
(2.15 - 4.00 pm)

*What have we achieved, where are the lacunae, and which good practices can we highlight?*

***Chair:*** Jean-Paul Lehnert, Chair of ECRI

- Costas Tsiaras, Minister of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights, Greece
- Sam Tanson, Minister for Culture, Minister for Housing, Minister of Justice, Luxembourg
- Simona Leskova, State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Slovenia
- Dunja Mijatović, Commissioner for Human Rights, Council of Europe
- Nada Al-Nashif, Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO
- Noureddine Amir, Chair of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- Frédéric Potier, Interministerial Delegate for the Fight against Racism, Antisemitism and LGBT Hatred, France
- Tena Šimonović Einwalter, Chair of the European Network of Equality Bodies; Member of ECRI

Interactive discussion with contributions from the floor



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**Coffee break** (4.00 - 4.30 pm)

**2nd session– Looking to the future: Reinforce existing actions or new approaches to achieving equality?** (4.30 - 6.00 pm)

What are the main trends in the fields of equality and the fight against the different forms of racism, xenophobia, antisemitism and intolerance, what action is needed in these fields, how can we improve impact and involve new generations?

**Chair:** *Isil Gachet, Director of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights, Council of Europe*

- Keynote speaker: Nils Muižnieks, Expert, former Chair of ECRI and former Commissioner for Human Rights, Council of Europe
- Trine Skei Grande, Minister of Culture and Equality, Norway
- Kristine Grigoryan, Deputy Minister of Justice, Armenia
- David Stanton, Minister of State for Equality, Immigration and Integration, Ireland
- E. Tendayi Achiume, UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance
- Jacques Toubon, Defender of Rights, France
- Anja Olin Pape, Chair of the Joint Council on Youth and of the Advisory Council on Youth, Council of Europe
- Evelyne Paradis, Executive Director, ILGA-Europe

Interactive discussion with contributions from the floor

Closing of the session by Maria Daniella Marouda, Vice-Chair of ECRI

**Musical event** (6.15 - 7.15 pm)

Dyslexic Swing & The Silent Brocoli: *jazz manouche* from the 1930s-1940s

**Dinner Buffet** (7.30 pm)



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**Friday, 27 September 2019**

**Security check, registration and welcome** (8.00 - 9.00 am)

**Opening and 3rd session – Inclusive societies: How to get it right?** (9.00 - 10.45 am)

How can we achieve the sustainable inclusion of groups exposed to racism and intolerance in our societies, what should we focus on and what has worked in practice?

- Inclusive integration as a two-way process involving the whole of society
- Effective mechanisms to prevent and combat hate speech in political debate
- Good practices on inclusion at regional and local level

**Moderator:** *Snežana Samardžić-Marković, Director General of Democracy, Council of Europe*

Opening speech

- Muhterem Ince, Deputy Minister of Interior, Turkey

Panel discussion

- Jean-Marie Delarue, President of the National Consultative Commission on Human Rights, France
- Harald Bergmann, Representative and Thematic Spokesperson on Human Rights of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Council of Europe; Mayor of Middelburg
- Ioannis Dimitrakopoulos, Scientific Adviser, EU Agency for Fundamental Rights
- Michaël Privot, Director, European Network Against Racism
- Thomas Huddleston, Research Director, Migration Policy Group
- Mahira Karim, Activist, No Hate Speech Campaign

Interactive discussion with contributions from the floor

**Coffee break** (10.45 - 11.15 am)

**4th session – New technologies and the Internet: How to use the opportunities and control the risks?** (11.15 am - 12.45 pm)

What are the opportunities and risks related to new technologies and the Internet, how can we deal with them and what should we focus on?

- Using algorithms to prevent and combat bias, discrimination and exclusion
- Establishing an effective framework to combat hateful content on the Internet

**Moderator:** *Jeroen Schokkenbroek, Director of Anti-discrimination, Council of Europe*

Panel discussion

- Tiina Astola, Director-General for Justice and Consumers, European Commission
- Gwendal Le Grand, Deputy Secretary General of the National Commission on Informatics and Liberty, France
- Kirsi Pimiä, Non-Discrimination Ombudsman, Finland



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- Anne Weber, Adviser to the Commissioner for Human Rights, Council of Europe
- Gabrielle Guillemain, Senior Legal Officer, ARTICLE 19
- Julien Cornebise, Research Director, Element AI

Interactive discussion with contributions from the floor

### **Conclusions – The future of the promotion of equality and the fight against racism and intolerance (12.45 - 1.15 pm)**

#### Short conclusions

- Domenica Ghidde Biidu, Vice-Chair of ECRI

#### Declarations

- Jean Paul Lehnert, Chair of ECRI – ECRI's Roadmap to Effective Equality
- Amélie de Montchalin, Secretary of State for European Affairs, attached to the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, France – Declaration of the French Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

#### Closing words

- Snežana Samardžić-Marković, Director General of Democracy, Council of Europe