

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



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MAY - NOVEMBER  
Conseil de l'Europe  
Council of Europe



European Commission  
against Racism and Intolerance  
**ECRI**  
Commission européenne  
contre le racisme et l'intolérance



COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
  
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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## 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.