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E-004821/2025

Answer given by Ms Lahbib

on behalf of the European Commission

(18.2.2026)

Equality and non-discrimination are founding values enshrined in the EU Treaties and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. The lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, non-binary, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ+) people equality strategy 2026–2030¹ is based on the Commission's mandate to promote equality and combat discrimination, an initiative announced in the Political Guidelines² and the mission letter of Commissioner for Equality; Preparedness and Crisis Management³. The strategy fully respects the competences of the Member States in accordance with the Treaties.

With regards to the impact of the LGBTIQ+ equality strategy 2020-2025, it sets out broad policy objectives, without introducing obligations for Member States. As such a communication had in itself no impact which could have been meaningfully identified ex ante, in line with the Better Regulation Guidelines, a dedicated impact assessment was not required⁴. However, any legislative initiatives announced under the strategy were subject to specific impact assessments, ensuring proper assessment of proportionality, subsidiarity and cost implications.

The LGBTIQ+ equality strategy 2026-2030 complements a broader set of policy initiatives⁵ which together contribute to building an EU of Equality that responds to the specific challenges of different groups at risk of discrimination, while maintaining a coherent and inclusive EU equality framework. The 2008 Commission proposal for an Equal Treatment Directive⁶ would address remaining gaps in EU legislation as regards the protection against discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation in the areas of social protection, including social security and healthcare, education, and access to goods and services, including housing. The proposal is currently pending in Council.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52025DC0725>.

² https://commission.europa.eu/document/e6cd4328-673c-4e7a-8683-f63ffb2cf648_en.

³ https://commission.europa.eu/about/organisation/college-commissioners/hadja-lahbib_en.

⁴ https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-making-process/better-regulation/better-regulation-guidelines-and-toolbox_en.

⁵ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A52021DC0101>, https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/combating-discrimination/racism-and-xenophobia/anti-racism-strategy_en, https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/99cc0720-68c2-4300-854f-592bf21dceaf_en?filename=eu_roma_strategic_framework_for_equality_inclusion_and_participation_for_2020_-_2030.pdf, https://commission.europa.eu/system/files/2017-11/social-summit-european-pillar-social-rights-booklet_en.pdf, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52021DC0142>, https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/d6cc6024-6f90-4b6a-8216-fd940407e55f_en?filename=cajil_antisemitism-strategy-doc-en.pdf and the gender equality strategy 2026-2030 (planned for Q1 2026).

⁶ COM/2008/0426 final.