

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-001148/25
to the Council**

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(18 March 2025)

Subject: Withdrawal of the proposed horizontal anti-discrimination directive

The announcement that the proposed horizontal anti-discrimination directive is being withdrawn from the 2025 Commission Work Programme has raised serious concerns about transparency and institutional accountability. The proposed law was expected to fill a significant legislative gap and generate benefits for society as a whole by improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the EU's anti-discrimination framework beyond the workplace and promoting more harmonised living standards and free movement in the internal market.

In June 2024, the Belgian Council Presidency put forward a compromise proposal for a new Council directive on equal treatment, which won the support of a broad majority of Member States after having been blocked in the Council for 16 years. Negotiations on this directive are currently a priority for the Polish Council Presidency.

Can the Council provide clarification on the following points:

1. Did the Commission notify the Council and the Polish Council Presidency in a timely manner of its intention to withdraw the directive, and what are their views regarding these plans?
2. Can the Council provide a detailed overview of the arguments advanced by the Member States that continue to oppose the proposal (Czechia, Germany and Italy)?
3. In light of the above, what concrete measures do the Council and the Council Presidency plan to take to continue comprehensively addressing discrimination in the EU?

Submitted: 18.3.2025

Reply
(22 July 2025)

The Commission's intention to withdraw its proposal for a Council Directive on implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, as mentioned by the Honourable Members, was announced in the Commission Work Programme 2025 on 11 February 2025 and was notified to the Council on 12 February 2025 (ST 5985/25).

On 10 March 2025, some Member States requested to discuss this directive and the Commission informed the Council of its intention.

Pending its possible withdrawal by the Commission, the proposal remains under discussion within the Council. The latest progress report on work in the Council on the directive proposal is set out in document number ST 9573/25.

The Council remains committed to the principle of equality, in line with the Treaties and EU legislation. The Council will, in its legislative capacity, address any upcoming proposals from the Commission aimed at addressing all forms of discrimination.
