



european network against racism

ENAR

European Parliament Elections Toolkit

PUT YOUR EP CANDIDATES ON THE SPOT!

PUT ANTI-RACISM AT THE HEART OF THE EUROPEAN AGENDA!

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1. WHY MOBILISE FOR THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS?

Over the last two decades or so, rambling on about the disconnection between the European Union and its citizens has been a topos of the political and media discourse. Instead of boring you with the mere repetition of what has already been debated in much more depth, this introduction intends to be straight to the point. Why vote for the elections? Why mobilise? Does it change anything?

Yes, it does!!! Here are the basics all anti-racists should know about the European Parliamentary elections!

If the increasing complexity of the issues dealt with by the European Union as well as its remit are among the major causes of this deepening gap, despite the important communication and media outreach of the European Institutions, the still hollow presence and role of the European Parliament is probably another.

Somehow conceived as a democratic add-on meant to confer a popular legitimacy to the main power structures at the core of the European integration process – the Council and the Commission – the European Parliament has been struggling ever since its inception to increase the weight of the direct voice of the citizens of Europe in the European decision-making process. From a fairly restricted area of competence, the European Parliament has developed as a major political player and promises to become even more powerful when the Treaty of Lisbon enters into force, its co-decision power being extended to the second and third pillars of EU policies.

Concretely, for anti-racist activists, this means that the European Parliament will no longer content itself with producing own-initiative reports on issues related to migration and integration for example (i.e. a mere consultation role), but will be on equal footing with the Council, i.e. with the Member States, in the decision making process on such crucial issues and many others.

From June onwards, **the European Parliament will become a credible political player at EU level**, not just a democratic widget. It will provide a real direct democratic lever to European citizens in relation to the proposals of the European Commission and the decisions of the Council and will play a key role in the designation of Commissioners. That is why voting will be all the more determining this year.

Make sure that you send the right representative at the right place as their decisions will have an impact on the EU legislation that will have to be implemented at national level sooner or later. One might argue that if the EP had had such powers previously, the Framework Decision on Racism and Xenophobia (that was substantially watered down by the Member States while it was kept in the starting blocks for the last seven years), would not have undergone such woes. Indeed, the EP has, by and large, quite consistently demonstrated support for anti-discrimination and anti-racism over the years.

Be it from our own anti-racism perspective only, getting involved in the election campaigns to raise our specific issues is at the very heart of our commitment to make Europe better. You will find at the end of this T-Kit a series of questions that are relevant for our sector's interests and concerns.

Jump in the political struggle for a more equal Europe:

1. **Take ownership** of those questions and make them part of your national election campaign by addressing them to candidates campaigning at local/regional/national levels during political meetings, through emails to the candidates, or directly to the political parties themselves (see links below).
2. **Develop your** own set of **questions** and communicate it to your members and the Secretariat of ENAR so that they can be shared with your members in other countries.
3. **Bring your national candidates to take a firm stand on anti-racism and anti-discrimination in the EU!!!**
4. **Disseminate massively** through your mailing lists the answers you might receive to inform as many potential voters as possible about the positive and negative messages of candidates.
5. **Encourage the people around you to usefully cast their vote early June!!**
6. **Inform the Secretariat** about your new MEPs' stand on equality and anti-racism once they've been elected.

A few links to further reasons and tips to engage

A great T-kit on mobilisation for the European elections by the EU Civil Society Contact Group

<http://www.act4europe.org/code/en/materials.asp?Page=262&menuPage=262>

An interesting T-Kit on the gender dimension of the European elections by the European Women's Lobby

www.5050democracy.eu

The "Be bothered" campaign material of the European branch of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA)

http://www.ilga-europe.org/europe/campaigns_projects/ep2009

A good T-Kit with relevant campaigning material by AGE

http://www.age-platform.org/EN/rubrique.php?id_rubrique=89

10 forward looking requests to the EP by the European Anti-Poverty Network

<http://www.eapn.eu/content/view/841/34/lang,en/>

The concerns and questions of the Conference of European Churches ahead of the European Parliament elections

<http://www.ecumenicalvoices2009.eu/>

The European Council on Refugees and Exiles' Manifesto for the European elections

http://www.ecre.org/resources/ECRE_actions/1329

Find out the links to your national political parties

Alliance of Liberal Democrats for Europe

<http://www.alde.eu/en/misc/links/>

European People's Party (Christian Democrats) – European Democrats

<http://www.epp-ed.eu/inthememberstates/home/en/default.asp>

European Socialist Group

<http://www.pes.org/en/content/pes-member-parties-2>

European United Left/Nordic Green Left

<http://www.guengl.eu/showPage.jsp?ID=325>

Greens-European Free Alliance Group

http://www.europeangreens.org/cms/default/rubrik/9/9209.member_parties.htm)

Independence/Democracy in Europe (the kind of people you don't really want to see there – so vote usefully!)

<http://indemgroup.eu/8/>

Union for Europe of the Nations (the people you would absolutely want to ban from entering the EP – so vote even more usefully!)

<http://www.uengroup.org/home.html>

2. ENAR ACTIONS

What ENAR did, is doing, will do in relation to the EP elections?

Date-timeline	Action
<i>July 2008</i>	ENAR Manifesto sent to the main political groups of the EP (EPP-ED, Socialists, European Greens, ALDE, GUE – see below)
<i>July – September 2008</i>	Meetings with the main political groups secretariats
<i>April 2009</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Launch of the ENAR T-Kit- Questionnaire sent to the main political groups (see below)
<i>April – June 2009</i>	Campaigning and raising the awareness of candidates about our anti-racist agenda – getting people to vote
4-7 June 2009	Vote!!
<i>June/July</i>	Gimmick to be sent to all MEPs reminding them that the Equality Agenda is far from achieved in Europe and that more action is still needed.
<i>September-November 2009</i>	Mobilising MEPs for a critical and principled approval of the new Commission

3. ENAR MANIFESTO TO THE EUROPEAN POLITICAL GROUPS

INTRODUCTION

The European Union faces many important challenges in the 21st century, not least the ongoing struggle to overcome racism and discrimination experienced by ethnic and religious minorities across the European Union. Much progress has been made in recent years, including the emergence of a comprehensive European framework to combat discrimination. Nevertheless, racism remains a deep-rooted problem. The incidents in Italy in November 2007 and May 2008 and the subsequent reaction of the Italian government issuing a decree amending laws on the expulsion of EU citizens, surrounded by an extensive media campaign activating hatred and evoking racist assumptions about 'Gypsies' in the Italian public, cannot be tolerated if our common goal is to build a Union where all its citizens equally enjoy full and uncompromised human rights and freedoms as guaranteed by the Treaties. These incidents could have happened in any EU member state and politicians and other stakeholders must act to ensure they do not.

Furthermore, the analysis of ENAR members demonstrates that there is a commonality of experiences of racism across the European Union, even where manifestations may vary. ENAR's most recent Shadow Reports on racism in Europe particularly highlighted the situation of Roma, Traveller and Sinti communities; vulnerable migrant communities (including undocumented workers); asylum seekers; those who experience family reunification; and the diverse Muslim community.

In this context, the European Parliament has an important role to play in furthering the fight against racism and discrimination in Europe and the elections are a key opportunity to show its commitment to anti-racism and anti-discrimination. ENAR believes that the EU values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities must be applied during campaigning for the 2009 European Parliamentary elections. It is essential to ensure that the election campaign does not propagate racist and anti-immigrant sentiments and that anti-racism is given a high priority in the election campaign agenda.

Representation and political participation

One aspect of this commitment is to ensure that ethnic and religious minorities are adequately represented among the election candidates. Currently under 2% of MEPs are from ethnic minorities and yet over 5% of the European population is of ethnic minority origin. The European Parliament should better reflect the increasing diversity of European societies. Related to this is the issue of political participation of ethnic minorities. Political parties must ensure that they encourage the political participation of ethnic and religious minorities as much as possible in the 2009 elections; in order to do this, their programme should also address the specific and concrete concerns of this part of the population.

New political muscles

A much celebrated and welcomed achievement of 2007 was the adoption of the Lisbon Treaty. The Lisbon Treaty will give the European Parliament increased co-decision powers, notably in the field of Justice and Home Affairs, and will enable the European Parliament to have a stronger voice in the debates on migration and fundamental rights policies. It will give MEPs the opportunity to show

their commitment to anti-discrimination and anti-racism in broader areas, as they have recently done in calling for comprehensive non-discrimination legislation covering *all* grounds.

An enhanced role as defenders of fundamental rights

Another crucial element of the Lisbon Treaty is the incorporation of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. Principles of participatory democracy promoting people and civil society's support and involvement in the construction of Europe, protection of the fundamental right of non-discrimination, minority rights, religious freedoms and social rights are now firmly placed as core values of the Union. ENAR hopes that the European Parliament will undertake all necessary efforts in order to establish the power of the Charter in all policies and actions of the EU. ENAR calls on the EP to use all available instruments to make fundamental rights protection a real experience in all Member States of the EU by acknowledging that non-discrimination is a core fundamental right as articulated in Article 21 of the European Charter of Fundamental Rights.

1. ENSURING EFFECTIVE LEGAL PROTECTION FOR ALL ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS MINORITIES

The European Commission has made significant steps in recognising the existence of gaps in the current anti-discrimination framework at the European level and the need to address this. In its legislative work programme 2008, the European Commission has announced the proposal of a directive implementing the principle of equal treatment outside employment. The European Parliament has consistently played a crucial role in calling for the 'levelling up' of protection across all discrimination grounds. Hierarchies between discrimination grounds undermine the ability of the law to provide effective protection and to achieve coherence, clarity and accessibility, including for those already covered by the higher level of protection. We are therefore convinced that the most effective solution is a single Directive covering the four grounds of age, disability, sexual orientation and religion or belief. At this crucial time, ENAR therefore calls on the European Parliament to continue its work to ensure that the legislative proposal on implementing the principle of equal treatment beyond employment will be taken forward on the grounds of religion, sexual orientation, age and religion building on and securing existing levels of protection and addressing gaps in the current non-discrimination framework.

The European Parliament will also play a crucial role in keeping a focus on the gaps that remain in the overall legal framework on discrimination. The Race Equality Directive offers a high level of protection, but the lack of coverage of nationality discrimination, the exclusion of any treatment arising from legal status and the complete exclusion of provisions relating to entry and residence of third country nationals from coverage of the ban on discrimination, leaves third country nationals unprotected from much discrimination in an area where the EU is taking an increasingly important role. Similarly, the lack of coverage of criminal justice, policing and law enforcement more broadly denies protection in key areas and reduces the coherence of the legislative protection on non-discrimination. This is also the case of the Directive implementing the principle of equal treatment between men and women in the access to and supply of goods and services, which, for example, explicitly excludes education and provides for the possibility of justifying direct discrimination. It will therefore be necessary in the future to take stock of the different anti-discrimination directives and examine which provisions need to be aligned or consolidated.

Another key development in ensuring legal protection for ethnic and religious minorities has been the adoption by the EU Council of the Framework Decision on combating racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law. ENAR has long advocated for the adoption of an effective European instrument on racism as a crime, and believes that such an instrument is essential in the European

context. Despite the weaknesses in the text of the current proposal, ENAR believes that the adoption of this instrument is crucial for the fight against racism and xenophobia in the EU.

For more information, read [ENAR's response to the European Commission consultation concerning a possible new initiative to prevent and combat discrimination outside employment](#) and [the report of ENAR's ad hoc expert group on anti-discrimination](#).

2. STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF EUROPE'S SOCIAL DIMENSION

ENAR strongly believes that a new social vision and Social Agenda must take account of the needs and experiences of communities across Europe that are vulnerable to racism and discrimination including amongst others, Roma, Sinti and Travellers; migrants including EU nationals and third country nationals, particularly undocumented migrants and asylum seekers; the Jewish community and the Muslim community, long-standing ethnic minority communities and national minorities as well as more recent migrants.

A comprehensive, sustainable and coherent policy framework must be developed that is tailored to the experiences and needs of ethnic and religious minorities taking into account the impediments that hinder ethnic minorities and migrants to enjoy 'well-being' and building on a strong human rights based approach, which places non-discrimination, anti-racism and social inclusion at the heart of the Social Agenda.

One of the main findings of the ENAR ad hoc expert group on social and economic inclusion of disadvantaged ethnic and religious minorities held in March 2007 points out that as a general trend across Europe governments do recognize the need for interventions to enable those most disadvantaged to escape poverty and social exclusion but links between discrimination and structural disadvantage as factors of continuing social exclusion are not established. Consequently the social exclusion experienced by ethnic minorities is not addressed appropriately, different experiences of the many groups commonly referred to as 'disadvantaged groups' are not taken into account, disaggregated data is not available, meaning that social exclusion of ethnic minorities remain invisible and thus social inclusion policies are not delivering for the most disadvantaged and excluded in Europe.

Europe's social agenda provides an opportunity which has not yet been fully realised to reduce inequalities and combat the phenomena of poverty and exclusion of ethnic and religious minorities. The Open Method of Coordination on social inclusion and social protection, National Reform Programmes and the Employment Guidelines, and the active inclusion strategy are core tools enabling Member States and civil society to ensure that poverty and social exclusion experienced by religious and ethnic minorities are adequately addressed.

For more information, read [ENAR's comments on the European Commission Communication 'Opportunities, access and solidarity: towards a new social vision for 21st century Europe'](#), [ENAR's response to the European Commission's Consultation on the active inclusion of people furthest from the labour market](#), and [the report of ENAR's ad hoc group on the social and economic inclusion of ethnic and religious minorities](#).

3. TOWARDS A PROGRESSIVE MIGRATION POLICY FOR THE EU

It is a fundamental principle of human rights that they apply to ‘Everyone... without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social group, property, birth or other status’.¹

Equal treatment is an integral part of the fundamental right to non-discrimination. Although, in principle, every person is entitled to this right regardless of his/her legal status, the effective exercise of rights can be, and is, undermined by differential treatment based on citizenship or immigration status. In the European Union, equal treatment of third country nationals is both an obligation, under the general principle of respect for fundamental rights, and a political commitment. The Tampere Presidency conclusions in 1999 stated that: “The European Union must ensure fair treatment of third country nationals who reside legally on the territory of its Member States.” The same commitment was reaffirmed implicitly in the Common Basic Principles on Integration adopted by the European Council in 2004.

Many of the recent developments in the broad agenda of migration policy including the proposed Directive on common standards and procedures in Member States for returning illegally staying third-country nationals and the proposed EU directive providing for sanctions against employers of irregular third country nationals nonetheless have the potential of undermining the basic human rights of third country nationals. While the framework directive on the basic socio-economic rights for all third country workers aims to fill the rights gap, there are concerns that the priority given to immigration control in bringing forward proposals on regular and irregular migration distorts the framework. Employment and broader socio-economic rights should be provided equally to every member of European societies, without any artificial division based on legal statuses.

These legislative proposals are illustrations of the current discourse which sees migration as a utilitarian and short-term solution to demographic change, whereby migrants are welcome to contribute to the European economy but are treated differently and are restricted in exercising basic human rights, including social and economic rights. ENAR urges the European Parliament to pay particular attention to the fundamental rights of third country nationals and to follow a rights-based approach which ensures equal treatment of all third country nationals, including undocumented migrants. In addition, policy coherence must be achieved between non-discrimination, social inclusion and migration strategies.

For more information, read the [concept paper of ENAR's conference on migration](#).

4. MAKING COUNTER-TERRORISM AND ANTI-RACISM MEASURES MUTUALLY REINFORCING

Since the 11 September 2001 terror attacks in the USA, and then the London and Madrid bombings, counter-terrorism measures have shot up the international and European agendas. For some time concerns have been expressed regarding the link between racism and counter-terrorism measures. The dominant rhetoric has a disturbing tendency to link terrorism and illegal immigration leading to stereotyping and racism. Terminology such as ‘Islamic terrorism’ has led to a growing perception that there is somehow an inherent link between Islam and terrorism - a perception which is contradicted by the facts, but which has led directly to increased Islamophobia and a disproportionate impact of counter-terror measures on Muslim communities. The challenge is to

¹ Article 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

secure the effectiveness of the counter-terrorism policy by ensuring that it is carried out within the context of the international human rights framework and in a non-discriminatory manner.

The fight against racism and the fight against terrorism are intrinsically linked. Both racism and terrorism are the product of intolerance and present serious threats to fundamental rights. While there is no inherent contradiction between these two imperatives, it is clear that the fight against terrorism is having a detrimental impact on broader efforts to overcome intolerance. Legal, policy and practice developments in the fight against terrorism have contributed to an environment whereby direct and indirect forms of discrimination are increasingly tolerated and even mandated. Official actions, such as the use of racial profiling, present direct manifestations of racial discrimination, while the overall tone of public debate and political action has contributed to increasing prejudice and subsequent discrimination across the whole range of social spheres. Recent developments and trends in the fight against terrorism are undermining integration and social inclusion contributing to a context whereby a small minority justify terrorism. Anti-racism is not a right to be sacrificed in the context of a broader security agenda, but rather should represent a key element of any strategy aimed at enhancing security in Europe.

ENAR therefore calls on the European Parliament to ensure that counter-terrorism policies are developed and implemented in the framework of human rights and anti-discrimination and that anti-racism is a key element in counter-terrorism strategies. Counter-terrorism measures should be designed, implemented and evaluated in an open and transparent manner, which takes into account the perspectives of all religious or ethnic communities in the EU. Active measures and standards should be promoted to prevent the 'racialisation' of the European security agenda, including adopting common standards on preventing the use of racial and religious profiling in counter-terrorism and policing. The European Parliament should also recognise racism, and in particular Islamophobia, as a source of exclusion and promote the rights of all ethnic minority communities, as a key element of any strategy aimed at preventing radicalisation.

For more information, read [ENAR's General Policy Paper on counter-terrorism and combating racism](#).

4. PUT YOUR EP CANDIDATES ON THE SPOT! – A USEFUL QUESTIONNAIRE

There are different ways of getting a sense of the political programme developed by a particular party or EP candidate: reading the official programme, the official advertisements, watching broadcasted political debates, attending political meetings...

However, putting through your questions on your own issues of concerns directly to the party or the candidates in the course of meetings is also a good way of attempting to go beyond the political correctness of many party programmes – specifically when it comes to European top ten ranking political issues such as migration, integration, discrimination and racism.

Whilst local/national issues are often dominant and decisive in the race for the European elections, it must be acknowledged that these local/national issues often remain a declination of broader political debates at the European level. This T-Kit leaves it up to you to adapt, change or twist the sample of questions below to make them relevant to your national debates. The aim is to bring the candidates to take a stand on the issues close to our hearts!

But **we encourage you to be creative!** Craft out your own questions and send them to the [Secretariat](#) too, so that they can be shared with ENAR members across Europe!!

Very important too: **take note of their answers!** If the candidates you teased are elected and make their way to the EP, it will be extremely useful at a later stage to know where they stand. The Network would love to know about it.

A short anthology of anti-racist questions...

Equality – anti-discrimination

1. The European Parliament has often been the champion of equality and non-discrimination in Europe. Will your party and yourself uphold the fight for more equality and justice for all, but for ethnic and religious minorities in particular? Will you struggle to make equality a reality? Why? And how?
2. The present Parliamentary Assembly has voted on 2 April 2009 in favour of a new Directive protecting against discrimination on the grounds of age, handicap, sexual orientation and religion and beliefs. Has your party supported it? What is your party's position on equality for all in Europe?
What is your personal opinion on equality for ethnic minorities / for Roma / for Muslims / for (any ethnic or religious minority in your country)?

Financial crisis

3. In these times of global financial crisis and of widespread European identity crisis, far right parties are striking back: we can see this trend through their results in polls, but also in the political discourse which is much more tolerant to their ideas or again through the increasing number of their manifestations throughout Europe. What is your party doing or going to do to concretely stop their increase? What are you yourself doing to oppose their arguments

and propose innovative ways forward? What is your personal best idea to fight the extreme right that you would like to bring to Strasbourg and Brussels and implement there?

4. Ethnic and religious minorities are statistically more likely to be affected by poverty and social exclusion. What are your party and yourself intending to do or are doing to address the specific issues that ethnic and religious minorities are facing in terms of social exclusion? Do you think that the European Parliament has a role in that regard? Why?
5. In the current context, will you uphold and promote the principles of the Charter of European political parties for a non-racist society²?

Integration

6. According to you, what should Europeans do to integrate migrants and ethnic and religious minorities in society and vice versa? And what is your assessment of the EU Common Basic Principles on Integration and the current EU approach to integration?

Migration

7. The control, the management of migration flows is one of the top ten issues at European level and the Parliament is trying to have a say in this. Although marginal at the moment, its opinion will have much more importance once the Treaty of Lisbon will come into force. What is your party's position on migration control? What is your personal position on this issue? Do you think that it is possible to develop a human rights based approach to this issue? Why?

Positive action

8. Not only in our country, but all over Europe, religious and ethnic minorities are confronted to many hurdles when trying to access employment, housing, education. What is your party's position on this issue? What is your personal position? If elected, what do you personally commit to undertake within the remit of your competence as MEP?

Roma

9. The dire situation faced by the Roma throughout Europe has become one of the top concerns of European institutions over the last decade. The EP is one of the engines driving societal change in Europe. If elected, what do you plan to do to help Europe redress the massive disadvantages and discrimination faced by the Roma in all fields of life? Would you propose or support specific bills, directives, regulations, paving the way to an improvement of their situation all over Europe? Why?

² For more information on the Charter of European Parties for a non-racist society, click [here](#).

Representation

10. Our societies are becoming increasingly diverse. What is your party doing to increase the representation of ethnic and religious minorities within its different bodies, but also on the voting lists? What is your personal position on this? Should specific measures be adopted by the different political parties to increase the visibility of ethnic and religious minorities? Why? What are you and your party doing to increase the representation of those minorities within your party?

11. In the present Assembly, only 0.25% of the members are Roma (2) and only 0.9 % (7) are from non European ethnic origin. Do you think that the Parliamentary Assembly should be more diverse to reflect the great diversity of European citizens or should it remain a “white house” only? What is the position of your party on that issue? What is your personal position? Why?

Security

12. The fight against terrorism has been an important priority at all levels since 2001, but many of the policies put in place in terms of control, of security measures,... have impacted disproportionately on minorities, specifically Muslims and Roma. What is your party’s position on that issue? What is your personal position? Do you think that there is a possibility to strike a balance between the security of all and the human rights of minorities? Should there be a balance at all? Why?

5. WE PUT THE EP POLITICAL GROUPS ON THE SPOT! – AND THE ANSWER IS...

(Answers will be updated upon reception)

- 1. The present European Parliament has voted in favour of a new Directive protecting against discrimination on the grounds of age, disability, sexual orientation and religion or belief beyond the field of employment. Has your party supported it? What is your party's position on equality for all in Europe?**
- 2. Ethnic and religious minorities are most likely to be affected by the consequences of the current economic crisis and to be even more vulnerable to poverty and social exclusion. What will your party do to mitigate the impact of the crisis on ethnic and religious minorities and to address the specific issues that they face in terms of social exclusion? How will you address the likely increase in racism as a consequence of the growing insecurity that people feel about their future? And in this context, will you uphold and promote the principles of the Charter of European political parties for a non-racist society?**
- 3. The management of migration flows is one of the top ten issues at European level and the Parliament is trying to have a say on this. What is your party's position on the EU's approach to migration? Do you think that it is possible to develop a human rights based approach to migration?**
- 4. According to you, what should Europeans do to integrate migrants and ethnic and religious minorities in society and vice versa? And what is your assessment of the EU Common Basic Principles on Integration and the current EU approach to integration?**
- 5. Our societies are becoming increasingly diverse. What is your party doing to increase the representation of ethnic and religious minorities within the EU's different bodies, but also on your party's voting lists?**

