



## PRESS RELEASE

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### Anti-discrimination and social inclusion must be an integral part of a successful integration strategy

On the occasion of the EU Ministerial Conference on Integration on 15 and 16 April 2010 in Zaragoza, the European Network against Racism (ENAR) calls on EU ministers to put anti-discrimination and social inclusion of migrants at the heart of their commitments in the area of integration. The conference is an important opportunity to take forward a future European integration strategy that is firmly grounded in a human rights based approach and that recognises that anti-discrimination and social inclusion are prerequisites for successful integration strategies.

The meeting will focus among others on the evaluation of integration policies. ENAR believes that the development of specific indicators is essential to monitor and evaluate the outcome of integration policies and thus identify areas that require improvement. Great care should be taken to develop indicators that reflect the values of equality and non-discrimination as cross-cutting issues. Such indicators could include for instance: participation of immigrants in continuing education or training; job/qualifications relationship among foreign citizens compared with the population as a whole; and access to language courses.

The ‘importance of human capital’ will be another theme discussed at the ministerial meeting. This is a central issue insofar as the integration of migrants in their host societies is determined to a large extent by their opportunities to participate in gainful employment. Yet migrants tend to be disproportionately affected by unemployment or represented in “3 D” jobs - dirty, dangerous and difficult - and are often vulnerable to exploitation. ENAR therefore calls on EU member states to maximise the currently under-valued skills of migrants because they face discrimination in education and/or employment and experience difficulties with the recognition of foreign diplomas. Tackling this situation is essential to promote successful integration of migrants in Europe.

ENAR President Mohammed Aziz said:

“Although integration patterns may vary from one EU country to the other, the reality is that migrants continue to face barriers to their integration - including discrimination in employment - across Europe. This reality will not go away unless we identify these barriers and their causes. We need EU member states to develop concrete indicators which could measure the integration of migrants in key areas like employment and education and to take informed action to address the problem areas identified.”

*The European Network Against Racism (ENAR) is a network of NGOs working to combat racism in all EU member states and represents more than 600 NGOs spread around the European Union. ENAR aims to fight racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, to promote equality of treatment between EU citizens and third country nationals, and to link local/regional/national and European initiatives.*

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