



## PRESS RELEASE

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### ENAR issues key recommendations to boost labour market inclusion of ethnic minorities

The European Network Against Racism (ENAR) today launched the report of its Ad Hoc Expert Group on Promoting Equality in Employment in the European Parliament. The launch event was hosted by Sajjad Karim MEP, Vice-President of the EP's Anti-racism and Diversity Intergroup.

This Expert Group is a pioneering and innovative initiative bringing together four major multinational companies committed to diversity and inclusion (SODEXO, L'OREAL, IBM, ADECCO Group), trade unions, EU institutions, national governments and the anti-racist civil society to work together and identify ways forward to ensure the full participation of ethnic minorities in the labour market. It met for the first time on 26-27 November 2009.

The Expert Group's report thus puts forward a series of key recommendations to the EU institutions, member states, the private sector and social partners, both in terms of policies and strategic partnership building. It also highlights a number of best practices undertaken by private companies, trade unions and governments to address the barriers that impede access and progression of ethnic minorities in the workplace.

The launch meeting today was also the first time an ENAR event was chaired by a British conservative MEP. This further underlines the fact that promoting equality in employment can only be achieved by engaging all stakeholders, from all backgrounds, in the debate.

ENAR Chair Mohammed Aziz said: "This initiative is very much in keeping with ENAR's whole society vision guaranteeing 'security, equality and prosperity for all'. Fighting for equality is a concern for everyone and certainly not only for minorities. We need to bring people from all backgrounds together to identify workable solutions that can contribute positively to the race equality agenda. We now hope that the proposed recommendations will be implemented by all stakeholders involved."

The report is available on ENAR's website:

[www.enar-eu.org/Page\\_Generale.asp?DocID=15845&langue=EN](http://www.enar-eu.org/Page_Generale.asp?DocID=15845&langue=EN)

*The European Network Against Racism (ENAR) is a network of some 700 NGOs working to combat racism in all EU member states. 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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