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## **ENAR's 12-Point Call for Action to the Danish Presidency of the European Union** For building an equal Europe for all

The European Network Against Racism (ENAR) welcomes the Danish Presidency of the European Union. The Danish Presidency comes at a crucial time, as Europe faces major challenges including a difficult economic situation related to the European sovereign debt crisis and tense debates about the future of the European social model. **It is imperative that a purely economic analysis does not undermine the values of the Union. The Danish presidency should ensure that the Europe 2020 Strategy effectively delivers inclusive growth and guarantees non-discrimination and fundamental rights for all.**

ENAR's most recent Shadow Reports on Racism in Europe highlight that racism remains a deep-rooted problem in the EU. With the increasing insecurity that people feel about their future, particularly in times of economic downturn, racism is likely to increase in the coming period. In this context, ENAR is strongly concerned by the progress made by the far right in many EU Member States. A holistic approach is vital to respond to the challenges of creating a fairer Europe, where equality is a reality and the rights of all are fully recognised, respected and fulfilled without discrimination. ENAR is confident that the Danish Presidency will show the necessary leadership to mainstream this vision.

### **12 actions for the Danish Presidency to contribute to building an equal Europe for all**

- 1. Lead the negotiations on the future multiannual financial framework to ensure sufficient funds will be allocated for programmes that foster equality and fundamental rights.** Social inclusion should be prioritised as one of the three priorities of the EU 2020 Strategy. ENAR encourages the Presidency to support the inclusion of conditionality for the use of EU funds. In particular, funding should never go towards programmes that serve to discriminate or result in further segregating and marginalising disadvantaged groups.
- 2. Strengthen the Social Pillar of the Europe 2020 strategy through the implementation of the first full European Semester.** ENAR is concerned that a greater focus is placed on economic policies and less focus is allotted to reaching the poverty target and tackling the social consequences of the crisis. This particularly affects migrants and ethnic minorities. We urge the Danish Presidency to ensure that the targets set on inclusive growth and the mainstreaming of equality and non-discrimination in the National Reform Programmes are taken just as seriously as purely economic issues during the European Semester.
- 3. Ensure that the Social OMC instrument will remain a strong tool to enhance the social inclusion of minorities and migrants.** ENAR recommends including migrants and ethnic & religious minorities in future national social reports as a specific target group, and to ensure that targets are disaggregated, where possible, to examine the particular situation of migrants and ethnic & religious minorities.
- 4. Take the lead in ensuring the adoption of a new Equality Directive, filling the existing gaps in the legal anti-discrimination framework.** It is crucial to sustain the political will to reach the adoption of a Directive that is consistent with the Race Equality Directive by engaging in constructive negotiations in a transparent manner, open to the input of human rights and anti-discrimination experts including civil society.

5. **Demand full compliance with existing Equality Directives in all Member States.** The Race Equality and Employment Equality Directives (2000/43 and 2000/78) have had a significant impact on the European anti-discrimination landscape. Nonetheless, the quality of transposition and implementation remains problematic in most Member States. Pressure from the Presidency could be instrumental in ensuring the enforcement of EU legislation.
6. **Take a leadership role in ensuring that the European Year 2012 for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations raises awareness on the situation of older migrants and ethnic minorities in EU countries.** Including the needs of older migrants and ethnic minorities within all relevant policies is crucial. This is necessary because the population of older people with a migrant background is growing and necessitates specific solutions that respect and value different cultures, religions and beliefs. ENAR suggests the Presidency use the European Year 2012 to tackle the needs of older ethnic minorities and migrants and to promote their active ageing.
7. **Strengthen the process of the European Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies to achieve real policy results.** One of the key challenges for the Danish presidency will be to ensure efficient implementation of the EU Framework through national strategies. While social and economic inclusion is important, the strategies should also include fundamental rights and anti-discrimination measures. The Council should take an active role in monitoring and peer-reviewing ensuing strategies.
8. **Apply a positive approach to migration when leading negotiations linked with the management of migration from third countries.** ENAR reminds the Danish presidency of the danger and discriminatory nature of viewing contemporary migration and integration issues through negative clichés, referring to migrants, refugees and asylum seekers as a so-called “threat” to society or as “illegal”. The Presidency should also discourage intentions to manage migration from the countries of origin as this serves as a type of pre-selection process, which effectively discriminates along varying criterion.
9. **Ensure that the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) incorporates exchange of good practices and trainings on human rights of applicants.** Particular topics must be addressed in awareness and sensitivity raising trainings, such as the particulars of gender and equality mainstreaming in the interview proceedings. Furthermore, ENAR reiterates the need for *fair* asylum policy and interview proceedings and to avoid the compilation of information on countries of origin as a way of initiating quick decisions that do not consider the individual applicant, but rather discriminate and generalize based on the country of origin’s political and economic descriptions.
10. **Ensure that the Seasonal Workers Directive guarantees equal treatment regarding working conditions, social rights and access to legal redress.** Decent working conditions and comprehensive social protection measures should be provided. Third-country nationals who already reside in an EU Member State and who do not have access to the labour market should also be included in the scope of the Directive.
11. **Take the lead in enhancing Member State’s cooperation to improve integration policies and develop a progressive narrative on equality and diversity.** ENAR welcomes the Presidency’s intention to focus on promoting democratic values, enhancing equal opportunities, fostering social cohesion, discouraging parallel societies and preventing extremism.
12. **Lead the negotiations on the Victim’s Package to ensure that victims of hate crime receive the support they need.** The Package should dedicate particular attention to vulnerable groups to hate crime including ethnic and religious minorities and migrants. Furthermore, any event of racist violence in EU Member States should be systematically condemned by the EU Presidency and addressed in the Council.

**The European Network against Racism (ENAR) includes some 700 NGOs working to combat racism in all EU Member States. ENAR is determined 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.**