



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR JUSTICE AND CONSUMERS

The Director-General

Brussels  
JUST.D.1

Dear petitioners,

On behalf of President von der Leyen and of Commissioner Lahbib, I would like to thank you for your message of 17 July 2025 in which you deliver the signatures collected calling on the European Commission not to withdraw the 2008 proposal for a Council Directive on implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation (“Equal Treatment Directive”) and to work towards stronger, comprehensive protections for all.

With its 2025 Work Programme, the first work programme of the mandate, the Commission had thoroughly assessed all proposals currently pending with the co-legislators. As a result of this assessment, the Commission put forward a list of 37 proposals it intended to withdraw as they have been blocked for many years or have no real prospective of progress and where an agreement is unlikely. This included the proposal for the Equal Treatment Directive.

In line with the interinstitutional agreement on better law making, both the European Parliament and the Council were able to express their views on the intended withdrawals.

I am pleased to inform you that, having considered the supportive position expressed by the European Parliament and by a large majority of Member States in the Council as regards the announced withdrawal of the proposal for the Equal Treatment Directive, the Commission has decided to maintain the proposal for further discussion.

As set out in the Political Guidelines, the Commission is fully committed to building a Union of Equality. We will therefore continue to support the Council Presidency and the Member States with all possible means to help find an agreement on this important proposal.

The Commission will also continue leading efforts at the European Union level to do more for everyone to live, thrive and lead regardless of who they are. After the Roadmap on Women’s Rights, we will present new strategies on LGBTIQ equality, anti-racism and gender equality, and we will ensure the full implementation of the EU Roma strategic framework on equality, inclusion and participation as well as the Strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities.

By achieving a Union of Equality, the European Union will not only create a fairer society and strengthen our social model, but also draw on all of its talent and potential to build a sustainable, prosperous and secure future.

Yours sincerely,

Ana GALLEGO

