

17 March Brussels
Nhow Bloom Hotel

2026 EUROPEAN ANTI-RACISM CONFERENCE

Moderator
Ali Al-Jaberi

Agenda

The European Commission is hosting the Conference jointly with the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU

08:15

Registration and welcome coffee for participants

09:15

Opening session with high-level speakers

- Hadja Lahbib, Commissioner for Equality, European Commission
- Clea Papaellina, Deputy Minister of Social Welfare, Cyprus
- Melissa Camara, MEP Greens, ARDI Chair, European Parliament

09:45

Keynote speech

Thierry Witsel, Member of Wallon Parliament

10:05

Plenary session I: Tackling Structural Racism: Building Social Cohesion through evidence and action

Panel discussion

- Isabelle Mamadou, Chair, UN Working Group for People of African Descent
- Rabin Baldewsingh, National Coordinator Against Discrimination and Racism, Netherlands
- Sirpa Rautio, Director, EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)
- Dr. Toyin Agbetu, Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors, European Network Against Racism (ENAR)

Reaction of European Commission Anti-Racism Coordinator Michaela Moua

Discussion in plenary with interventions from participants.

11:05

Coffee Break

11:40

Panel II: Action Plans Against Racism: From the global to the local level – why concerted action is crucial

Panel discussion

- Peter Flegel, Senior Expert, Inclusion, Rights and Dialogue Section, UNESCO
- Domenica Ghidei-Bhidu, Representative of the European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), Council of Europe
- Rebecca Buttigieg, Parliamentary Secretary for Equality and Reforms, Malta
- Danijel Cubelic, Board Vice-President, European Coalition for Cities against Racism (ECCAR)

Reaction of European Commission Anti-Racism Coordinator Michaela Moua

12:40

Wrap up of the morning session

- Ana Gallego, Director-General, DG JUST, European Commission

12:50

Lunch break – Networking

14:20

Transition to plenary floor



14:30

Parallel sessions:

The aim of the breakout sessions is to go more in depth into the thematic areas of the Anti-racism Strategy 2026-2030. The session will take the form of interactive workshops with a participatory approach.

Break-out session I: Racism as a barrier to equal social, economic and health outcomes

Facilitator: Lavinia Banu, EU Affairs Consultant
Discussion + workshop

- Juliana Wahlgren, Director, European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN)
- Cristina de la Serna, Head of the Department of Equality and the Fight Against Discrimination, Fundación Secretariado Gitano (FSG), Spain
- Mila Paspalanova, Anti-Racial Discrimination Advisor for Europe, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR Brussels)
- Cristian Pîrvulescu, Rapporteur for the EESC opinions on “A Union of equality: EU anti-racism action plan 2020-2025”, European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

Break-out session II: External dimension of racism and intersection with migration

Facilitator: Donna-Marie Fry, Consultant
Discussion + workshop

- Michele Levoy, Director, Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM)
- Sara Hamood, Chief of the Anti-Racial Discrimination Section, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR Geneva)
- Andria Neocleous, Executive Director, “Hope for Children”, Cyprus
- Isabelle De Ruyt, Policy Officer, European External Action Service (EEAS)

Break-out session III: Protecting Civic Space in the EU

Facilitator: Ojeaku Nwabuzo, Consultant and Atlantic Fellow for Racial Equity
Discussion + workshop

- Aarti Narsee, Senior Policy Officer and Lead for Rule of Law Advocacy, European Civic Forum
- Monica Gathuo, Project Coordinator, Antiracist Forum Together against Hate, Finland
- Sedra Arab, Anti-Racism Trainer, Dokustelle Austria
- Estelle Masse, Policy officer, DG JUST, European Commission

Breakout Session IV: From legislation to lived reality: enforcement of anti-racism legislation

Facilitator: Constantin Schäfer, Director EU Relations & Projects, Ifok
Discussion + workshop

- Hubert Smolinski, Legal Officer, DG JUST, European Commission

- Nepheli Yatropoulos, Advisor on European and International affairs in the Cabinet of the Defender of Rights, France
- Daris José Lewis Recio, Senior Legal and Policy Officer, European Network of Equality Bodies (Equinet)
- Alba Hernández Sánchez, Co-founder, Feminist Collective of Romani Gender Experts

Break-out session V: Safeguarding equality in an AI-Driven Society

Facilitator: Alejandra Piot, Facilitator, Moderating.eu
Discussion + workshop

- Blue Tiyavorabun, AI Policy Lead, European Digital Rights (EDRI network)
- Sarah Chander, Director, Equinox
- Sara Haapalainen, Senior Project Officer, Council of Europe

15:55

Coffee break

16:25

Musical performance

Badi & band (AFRO-RAP / RAP / RUMBA)

16:50

Wrap up of breakout sessions

The rapporteurs will present key messages from the breakout sessions.

- Cerasela Banica, Secretary of State, National Council for Combating Discrimination, Romania
- Stefi Richani, Advocacy Lead, Equinox
- Céline Fabrequette, Managing Director, #DiasporaVote!
- Lin-Jung Sacha, Manager, Association des Jeunes Chinois de France (L'AJCF), France
- Oyidiya Oji, Policy and Advocacy Advisor for Digital Rights, European Network Against Racism (ENAR)

17:25

Closing session

- Abir Al-Sahlani, MEP Renew, European Parliament
- Pär Löfstrand, Rapporteur, European Committee of the Regions
- Magnus Brunner, Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Migration, European Commission
- Irena Moozová, Deputy Director-General, DG JUST, European Commission

18:00-19:30

Cocktail dinatoire Light walking dinner

