

**Question for written answer E-000031/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Lorenzo Fontana (NI)

Subject: Fifth directive implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of religion or belief, age or sexual orientation

In his mission letter to Commissioner Frans Timmermans, the President of the European Commission recommended that, during the first three months of his mandate, he holds discussions with the European Parliament and the Council concerning the list of pending legislative proposals to decide which should be moved forward and which should be withdrawn.

One of these proposals is the fifth directive implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of religion or belief, age or sexual orientation (COM(2008)0426), which was adopted by the Commission in July 2008.

Given the ongoing negotiations with the European Parliament and the Council and the fact that many citizens' associations have, either via direct communications with MEPs or by publishing online petitions, expressed concerns about the anti-discrimination approach as a whole, which they perceive in its current form as being too invasive of people's private lives and economic freedom, can the Commission say what point the negotiations have reached and what guidelines have emerged during the first few weeks?