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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2014 - 2019

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*Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs*

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**LIBE\_OJ(2015)0330\_1**

# **DRAFT PROGRAMME**

## **Hearing**

### **The situation of fundamental rights in the European Union**

**Monday 30 March 2015, 15.00 - 18.30**

**European Parliament, Brussels**

**Room Paul Henri Spaak (PHS) 1A 002**

## BACKGROUND

*The European Parliament is uniquely placed as a fundamental rights actor. As a co-legislator, it has a decisive role in most EU law- and policy-making; its competences on the EU's budget also enable it to play a great role in shaping the fundamental rights policy of the EU. Moreover, it is a privileged litigant before the Court of Justice of the European Union.*

*The European Parliament has stressed in its resolution of 27 February 2014 on the situation of fundamental rights in the European Union (2012) that it is essential for the European Union, its institutions and the Member States to guarantee respect for the common European values, and called for the setting up of a mechanism to ensure that the fundamental rights and values of the Union referred to in Article 2 TEU and in the Charter of Fundamental Rights are respected, protected and promoted.*

*In March 2013, competent Ministers from four Member States (Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark and Finland) had sent a letter to the President of the Commission, stressing the need for a new and more effective mechanism to safeguard fundamental values in the European Union. In March 2014, Commission issued its Communication on a new EU Framework to strengthen the Rule of Law. In December 2014, Council and the Member States meeting within the Council adopted their conclusions on ensuring respect for the rule of law.*

*In its resolution, Parliament had also called on Commission to establish a European policy cycle on the application of Article 2 TEU (democracy, rule of law, fundamental rights, equality) and an open annual interinstitutional forum on these European values, in particular the protection of fundamental rights. During his hearing in front of Parliament, Vice-President Timmermans committed to organize an annual colloquium on the state of play of fundamental rights in the Union, with the participation of all institutions.*

*The objective of the LIBE hearing on fundamental rights is, within the context of the reports on fundamental rights presented by the Fundamental Rights Agency and the initiatives by the European Commission, to contribute to the on-going dialogue on the mechanisms and methods to better safeguard the rule of law and the fundamental rights of persons in the Union.*

## Order of business

**15.00-15.15**

**OPENING REMARKS** by **Claude MORAES**, Chair of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs of the European Parliament and **Laura FERRARA** (EFDD), Rapporteur on the situation of fundamental rights in the EU

### FIRST SESSION

#### **Governance of the EU framework for the rule of law and fundamental rights**

**15.15 - 16.35**

15.15 - 15.25

**Frans TIMMERMANS**

First Vice-President of the European Commission, in charge of Better Regulation, Inter-Institutional Relations, the Rule of Law and Charter of Fundamental Rights

15.25 - 15.35

**Kristīne LĪCE**,

Chair, Council Working Party on Fundamental Rights, Citizens Rights and Free Movement of Persons (FREMP) (EU accession to ECHR)

15.35 - 15.45

**Juliane KOKOTT**

Advocate General, Court of Justice of the European Union

15.45 - 15.55

**Nils MUIŽNIEKS**

Commissioner for Human Rights, Council of Europe

15.55 - 16.05

**Iverna McGOWAN**

Director of Programmes and Acting Director  
Amnesty International European Institutions Office

16.05 - 16.35

**Questions & Answers**

**SECOND SESSION**

**Specific threats to fundamental rights in Europe. The way ahead**

**16.35 - 18.15**

- 16.35 - 16.45      **Gabriel TOGGENBURG**  
Senior Legal Advisor,  
European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
- 16.45 - 16.55      **Lotte LEICHT**  
European Union Advocacy Director and  
Director of Human Rights Watch's Brussels office
- 16.55 - 17.05      **Aleksandra IVANKOVIC-TAMAMOVIC**  
Milieu, presentation of the Policy Department C study on The  
impact of the crisis on fundamental rights
- 17.05 - 17.15      **Rodolfo CATTANI**  
Vice-President Social Platform and  
Secretary of European Disability Forum
- 17.15 - 17.25      **Nicola GRATTERI**  
Prosecutor, Reggio Calabria Tribunal, Italy
- 17.25 - 18.15      **Questions & Answers**

**CLOSING REMARKS**

**18.15**

**Laura FERRARA** (EFDD)  
Rapporteur on the situation of fundamental rights in the EU and  
**Claude MORAES**,  
Chair of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs of the European  
Parliament.

## Annex

### IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR THOSE WISHING TO ATTEND THE MEETING

This meeting is open to the public. However, for security reasons, participants who do not have a European Parliament access badge must obtain a pass in advance. Those wishing to obtain such a pass should contact the secretariat ([libe-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:libe-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu)) **before 27 March at noon**. It is essential to provide us with your **LAST NAME, First name, date of birth, nationality, type of ID (passport, identity card, driving licence, etc.), number of ID, address and company/institution/organisation**. Without this information, the Security Service will not provide entry passes.<sup>1</sup>

All participants from national Parliaments (Members, officials and Brussels-based representatives) need to complete the online registration form for the event at the following web address:

[http://www.opinio.europarl.europa.eu/opinio/s?s=icm\\_libe\\_juri](http://www.opinio.europarl.europa.eu/opinio/s?s=icm_libe_juri)

#### PRACTICAL GUIDELINES FOR THE DEBATE

- *During the discussion, so as to make it possible for the highest number of parliamentarians to intervene, speaking time of speakers will be limited to **ten minutes** and speaking time of other participants to **two minutes** per contribution or question.*
- *Members are kindly asked to fill in the sheet requesting speaking time (indicating their name and parliament) which will be distributed in the meeting room.*
- *Speakers wishing to supplement their speeches may do so in writing by submitting a document (preferably in English or French) in advance to the secretariat (email: [libe-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:libe-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu)). These documents will be circulated during the meeting.*
- *Meeting documents will be progressively added to the Events section of the LIBE Committee pages: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/homeCom.do?language=EN&body=LIBE> and to the WebNP event webpage: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/webnp/cms/lang/en/pid/1863>*

#### THE MEETING IS BROADCASTED LIVE AND RECORDED

LIBE Committee pages:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/homeCom.do?language=EN&body=LIBE>

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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<sup>1</sup> The processing of personal data is subject to Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of 18 December 2001 (OJ.L 8 12.1.2001, p. 1