

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4521/06  
by Piia-Noora Kauppi (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Homophobia in Poland

I would like raise your awareness of the unfortunate setback in the implementation of basic human rights in Poland. The Polish Selection Committee of the YOUTH Program has decided to reject the European Voluntary Project on grounds that it would 'propagate homosexual behaviour and attitudes among young people'. This is sort of statement is extremely discriminatory and against the Charter for Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

As Mrs Lissy Gröner pointed out in her letter to the Commission earlier, this is not the first time that Poland has violated Article 13 of the Treaty of Amsterdam, which guarantees equal rights for people of all sexual orientations. The government has continuously failed to implement necessary legislation and ensure the fair and equal treatment of homosexual people in their country. The initial banning of Warsaw Pride last summer is just one example of this. As a Member State of the European Union, Poland must respect the treaties and values it has agreed to.

With the year 2007 being the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All, it is especially important to take these issues into account. I would also like to draw attention to the resolution passed last June in the Parliament that condemns all discriminatory action towards the homosexual community. Discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is still unfortunately widespread in Europe. I share a deep concern with Mrs Gröner about the situation and hope that the Commission will act as soon as possible to prevent further intolerance from spreading.

Will the Commission react to this sort of breach of basic human rights? What kind of measures does the Commission intend to take in order to make sure that the Treaty of Amsterdam is respected across the European Union?