

EN

E-002131/2021

Answer given by Ms Dalli
on behalf of the European Commission
(8.7.2021)

1. Equality between women and men is a fundamental right and one of the founding principles of the European Union. Directive 2004/113/EC¹(1) prohibits direct and indirect discrimination between men and women in the access to and supply of goods and services. Indirect discrimination occurs where an apparently neutral provision, criterion or practice would put persons of one sex at a particular disadvantage compared with persons of the other sex, unless that provision, criterion or practice is objectively justified by a legitimate aim and the means of achieving that aim are appropriate and necessary.
2. Since the legislation referred to above already prohibits discrimination in access to goods, the Commission is currently not planning to develop additional instruments regarding specifically price discrimination against women and girls. The Commission monitors the correct application and enforcement of the existing EU legislation on gender equality in Member States and supports them in the proper implementation of existing rules such as the above.
3. The Commission continues addressing all the root-causes of the gender pay gap along the lines defined in the European Strategy for gender equality 2020-2025².

¹ <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2004/113/oj>

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52020DC0152>