Subject: LGBTIQ inclusion in ESF+ project selection

On 2 June 2021, Parliament approved the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) at second reading. It is the EU’s main instrument for investing in people and tackling inequalities. The EU LGBTIQ equality strategy aims to address and improve the socio-economic position of marginalised LGBTIQ people, particularly in the area of employment.

1. Will the Commission require the specific mention of LGBTIQ people as a target group or recipients of a call in the national programmes of the ESF+, in order to achieve the objective set out in the LGBTIQ equality strategy?

2. How will the Commission check the draft national programmes of the ESF+ to ensure that the principle of non-discrimination is adhered to?

3. How will project selection be checked by the Commission to ensure that projects funded under the ESF+ do not directly or indirectly discriminate against LGBTIQ people?