



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

# JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS



23.11.09

**Progress report on [COM \(2009\) 81](#) - Proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion by the European Community of the Protocol on the Law Applicable to Maintenance Obligations<sup>1</sup>:**

The Committee on Legal Affairs of the European Parliament has adopted the report drawn up by Diana Wallis (ALDE, UK) approving, unamended under the consultation procedure, the proposal. This will now go to Council for a final decision.

**Progress report on [COM \(2009\) 101](#) - Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION amending Decision 2006/325/EC to provide for a procedure for the implementation of Article 5(2) of the Agreement between the European Community and the Kingdom of Denmark on jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters<sup>2</sup>:**

The Committee on Legal Affairs of the European Parliament adopted unanimously the report drawn up by Lidia Joanna Geringer de Oedenberg (S&D, PL) approving, unamended under the consultation procedure, the proposal. This will now go to Council for a final decision.

**Commission closes legal cases after Spain, Slovakia and Malta adapt race equality laws**

On Friday the European Commission decided to close infringement proceedings against Spain, Slovakia and Malta following the successful implementation by these Member States of EU rules to tackle racial discrimination. The cases had been opened because national legislation in these countries was incompatible with the EU's Race Equality Directive (2000/43/EC) which prohibits direct and indirect discrimination based on racial or ethnic origin both in and outside employment.

<sup>1</sup> This was included in Update 2 (27/2/2009)

<sup>2</sup> This was included in Update 4 (13/3/2009)



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For Malta, the Commission's concerns related to the material scope, as Maltese legislation appeared to contain an exception for banks and financial institutions, but this has been satisfactorily explained by Malta. Also, the independence of the Equality Body had not been mentioned in the Equality for Men and Women Act, and the word "determining" had been missing from the Maltese legislative provision relating to the exception for "genuine and determining occupational requirements". Malta has now brought its legislation in line with the Directive.

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### EU marks 20 years of Child Rights Protection and Looks Ahead

On Friday the world celebrated the 20th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The internal policies of the EU and its external relations are based on the full respect and promotion of the Convention's principles. This anniversary is an opportunity to recognise the progress achieved in the promotion and protection of children's rights, but also to reflect on remaining challenges to enable children all over the world to fully enjoy their rights.

In the next years, the action of the European Commission in this area will focus on priority fields: violence against children, children in armed conflicts, poverty and children in particularly vulnerable situations (e.g unaccompanied minors, Roma), the invisible children (including child labour and child trafficking). Efforts will also be strengthened to ensure that children themselves are given the opportunity to voice their opinions. In addition, a thorough evaluation of the impact of EU actions in the field of children's rights will be conducted in 2010.

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