## 9th MAY 2014 EUROPE IN THE WORLD



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#### **HUMAN RIGHTS**

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI

#### **Priorities**

Decriminalization and combatting discriminatory laws and policies.

Promoting equality and non-discrimination.

Combating LGBTI-phobic violence.

Support and protection for (LGBTI) human rights defenders.

#### **Top 3 Facts**

Under international law, **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex people have the same human rights as all individuals**, which include the right to non-discrimination in the enjoyment of these rights.

The EU **Charter of Fundamental Rights** of 2000 **includes sexual orientation as a prohibited ground of discrimination** in its Art. 21. The Charter became binding after the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty on 1 December 2009.

**On 24 June 2013** the "Guidelines" to Promote and Protect the Enjoyment of All Human Rights by Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) Persons" were adopted by the EU's foreign Ministers. The EU Guidelines aim to provide officials of the EU Institutions and EU member states with guidance in contacts with third countries, international organizations and civil society organizations, in order to promote and protect the human rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex persons within its external action.

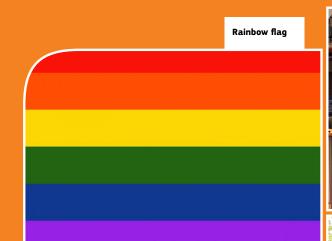
#### Did you know?

The European Union's engagement with the issue of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity dates back **to the mid-1990s.** 

The EU uses human rights dialogues for the promotion of non-discrimination against **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex people** (for example in Russia and Africa). Public statements and diplomatic demarches have been used to mark the EU's stance.

Through the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights, **the EU worldwide supports civil society organizations that defend the rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex persons** by empowering them to challenge homophobic laws and discrimination. The Instrument also aims at raising awareness among public about the discrimination and violence experienced by sexual minorities, combating it and providing emergency assistance (from psychosocial and medical, to mediation and reintegration assistance) to the most vulnerable in need of such support.







LGBT:

A panel of three speakers examined what the EU had accomplished so far for LGBT rights, and what could be expected by the end of the current European mandate in 2014.







Human Rights: EU Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighborhood Policy Stefan Fuele greets members of the LGBT community during a march for human rights.

# 9<sup>th</sup> May Europe Day

### Main links:

EEAS website page on human LGTBI: http://eeas.europa.eu/human\_rights/lgbt/index\_en.htm