

The European Parliament pushes for gay marriage – the "LGBT Roadmap" provides privileges for same sex unions

Once again the European Union serves as a stepping stone for the LGBT community. Tomorrow Tuesday 17 December 2013 the European Parliament's Committee for civil liberties (LIBE) will adopt an own-initiative report on an "*EU Roadmap against homophobia and discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity*" ([procedure file: 2013/2183](#)).

The overall objective: pushing for a right for two people of the same sex to get married in all EU Member States. Amendments 28, 29 and 30 are very clear about this target. If adopted, the 500 million EU citizens would henceforth be separated by their sexual orientation: the LGBT and the others. For the LGBT community, a special "EU Roadmap" should provide a privileged treatment. At the current stage this report is a political position, but any European legislative act starts with a non-binding initiative report in the European Parliament.

The rapporteur MEP [Ulrike Lunacek](#), is co-chair of the [LGBT Intergroup of the European Parliament](#), a group that gathers over 150 MEPs. The report is also supported by the LGBT lobby which is well-funded, by the EU. The European Commission provides over 70% of the annual budget of [ILGA-Europe](#), the institutionalised LGBT lobby.

The agenda of this report is supported by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights that has published [8 reports](#) explicitly related to the situation of the EU LGBT population since 2009, without ever mentioning how many citizens are really concerned. Moreover, the Fundamental Rights Agency has paid 370.000 € to Gallup and [ILGA-Europe](#) for an interactive, self-referential poll on the situation of LGBT people in the EU. Only 93.000 respondents, supposed to be EU citizens, out of the total 500 million were taken into account. Whilst the [public criticism](#) on the methodology with regard to the artificial fabrication of victims is still going on, EU Commissioner Viviane Reding (EPP, probable candidate for the EU Commission Presidency) declines any political responsibility for this EU Agency. In parallel at the European Parliament, the LIBE committee requested an [in-depth study](#) from the Brussels based "independent think tank" [Milieu LTD](#). As a matter of fact, the authors, [Vanessa Leigh](#) and [Levent Altan](#), in charge of this procedure at Milieu LTD, were joined by the director of ILGA Europe, [Evelyn Paradis](#). As a result, the European Parliament in-depth study that serves as the ground of the European Parliament procedure has been written by the chief lobbyist of the LGBT community which will also be the first to take profit of the resolution once it's adopted.

Most of the [45 amendments](#) have been co-tabled by all shadow rapporteurs, including the EPP (the Christian democrat group chaired by French UMP MEP Joseph Daul). By joining the Parliamentary left on the LGBT privilege agenda, the centre right EPP does not longer respect its [Platform](#) adopted in 2012. On the contrary, the EPP declines to lead the way in favour of marriage and family with respect to the best interest of children. The largest political group (or biggest minority) is represented by its shadow rapporteur, the young Maltese [MEP Roberta METSOLA](#). Born in 1979 and "could be daughter" of many experienced political advisors in Parliament, Mrs Metsola shows a tremendous potential for improvement of her political and institutional capacities. Mrs Metsola wants to please anybody and concludes compromises whilst jeopardizing the credibility of the EPP.

The [amendments](#) are explicit even if the language remains diplomatically cautious:

Marriage for all same sex partners: In order to implement the principle of free movement, all homosexual citizens must have the right to marry their same sex partner whether or not the relevant national law provides a provision hereto (the EU principles override national laws): "*The Commission should, as a priority, make proposals for the mutual recognition of the effects of all civil status documents across the EU, including registered partnerships, marriages and legal gender recognition, in order to reduce discriminatory legal and administrative barriers for citizens and their families who exercise their right to free movement.*" (amendment 28). Therefore "*Member States which have adopted legislation on cohabitation, registered partnerships or marriage for same-sex couples should recognise similar provisions adopted by other Member States*" (amendment 30). Finally, "*the Commission and Member States should study whether*

restrictions in place for the change of civil status and identity documents for transgender people harms their ability to enjoy their right to free movement" (amendment 29);

All hands on deck: the European Commission, Member States and all relevant agencies and services must work jointly on a comprehensive multiannual policy to make homosexuality and the LGBT agenda the masterpiece of EU policies, i.e. by a roadmap, a strategy or an action plan featuring the themes and objectives hereunder, i.e. recognition of gender identity and gender expression (amendments 3, 6, 7, 24);

Homosexuality and gender identity as a leitmotiv at the workplace: the EP calls on a specific focus on sexual orientation when monitoring the implementation of Directive 2000/78/EC establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation, and on gender identity when monitoring the implementation of Directive 2006/54/EC on the implementation of the principle of equal opportunities and equal treatment of men and women in matters of employment and occupation) (amendments 10, 11);

Transsexuals can refuse chirurgical changes of their body: by doing so, the EP promotes the idea that a newly transsexual man keeps his biological ability to bear children even if he is no longer a woman (amendments 22, 29);

Homosexualisation of the European Youth: The EP calls the EU and its Member States to promote equality and non-discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity throughout its youth and education programmes, including youth welfare services and social work (amendments 14, 15, 16);

Political interference in scientific matters: In order to facilitate the entire LGBT agenda, the Commission should continue working within the World Health Organisation to withdraw gender identity disorders from the list of mental and behavioural disorders and to ensure a non-pathology reclassification in the negotiations on the 11th version of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11).

All claims are founded on the "fundamental rights for all" and "no discrimination for anyone" discourse and put in the context of the EU principle of free movement for citizen. However, on the horizon appears a clear separation of the EU population in "the privileges of the LGBT" and "the rights of the others". At the end, an EU regulation would impose on Member States the right to marriage for gay couples and full adoption rights.

This may not arrive tomorrow. But each EU legislative act started once with an "own initiative report" which was downplayed as a "legally non-binding political statement".

The LIBE committee will vote on the amendments and the report on Tuesday 17 December 2013.