



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL JUSTICE AND CONSUMERS

Directorate D: Equality  
Director

Brussels,  
Just/D3 – WM/mp ARES(2015)

Amsterdam Gay Pride organisation

By email:  
[info@amsterdamgaypride.org](mailto:info@amsterdamgaypride.org)

**Subject: European Commission participation at the Canal Parade 2016**

Dear AGP Board members,

Already for many years the European Commission is committed to combat discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. This commitment is enshrined in the European Treaties, the Charter of Fundamental Rights, and for instance by our long-standing support to European LGBTI Human Rights organisations like ILGA-Europe, Transgender Europe and IGLYO.

The Commission has recently published the 'List of Actions to advance LGBTI Equality'<sup>1</sup> in order to step up its actions and further promote LGBTI rights. The actions include an EU wide awareness raising campaign to promote LGBTI equality, the first of its kind, focused on improving social acceptance of LGBTI people amongst our citizens. All actions and the campaign will be sponsored personally by First Vice-President of the Commission Frans Timmermans and the Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality Vera Jourovà.

The Commission will be giving an unprecedented visibility to LGBTI issues in the European Union as of next year. Considering the European vocation of the Europride, we are convinced that with our presence at the Amsterdam Canal Parade we will contribute to the European added value of that the event. The Amsterdam Canal Parade represents a unique opportunity to show the EU commitment on LGBTI Equality and we would be happy to join forces with the Amsterdam Gay Pride organisers to promote the values of equality and diversity at the event.

In this context, the Commission would be very interested to participate with a 'European Commission boat' at the Amsterdam Canal Parade 2016 through the use of a wildcard. Participation of the Commission at the Canal Parade would be once only, coinciding with the Europride.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/discrimination/news/151207\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/discrimination/news/151207_en.htm)

The design of the Commission boat still needs to be developed, but it will clearly represent the Commission and will show its political leadership through the colours and symbols used and the messages displayed in the framework of our upcoming campaign.

We hope for a positive consideration of this request and we are looking forward to hearing from you. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions on the Commission's actions to combat the discrimination of LGBTI people or on this request.

Yours sincerely,



Salla SAASTAMOINEN