

**FRA**

EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS



To the attention of:

Paul Nemitz
Director
Fundamental Rights and Union Citizenship
DG Justice
European Commission
1049 Brussels
BELGIUM

Via E-mail: [REDACTED]@ec.europa.eu

Vienna, 4 July 2013

Ref: 2013-outgoing-001062

Dear Mr Nemitz,

I am pleased to inform you that I have received positive feedback from the Directors of Europol, Eurojust and Cepol with respect to the proposal to convene a small working group to discuss our Agencies' respective work in the field of hate crime. To this end, I would like to extend the invitation to take part in the working group to a member of staff in your DG who has direct responsibility for working in this field.

I have indicated mid-September as a possible timeslot to hold a one day meeting of experts from FRA, Europol, Cepol, and Eurojust – including one expert each from DG Justice and DG Home.

I consider that the timing for such a meeting is apt given concerns about growing support for extremist groups in some Member States, and also because the existing Framework Decision on racism and xenophobia is due to be reviewed by the Council in November this year. In addition, the FRA's fundamental rights conference – at the end of the year – will focus on hate crime, which presents an opportunity to raise the issue high on the agenda at the EU and Member State level.

The idea behind the one day meeting in September is to discuss our respective work in the area of hate crime, and to look at possibilities with regard to how we might work together



Morten Kjaerum, Director

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights

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to more effectively address this issue at the level of the EU under our respective competencies. FRA will organise the meeting at our premises in Vienna, which will be of key interest to a number of staff at the Agency who are engaged in various projects that address hate crime; for example: large-scale FRA surveys looking at the extent and nature of hate crime (including our forthcoming survey results on anti-Semitism); issues such as reporting and non-reporting to the police; victims' identification of perpetrators; and legal responses to 'hate' or 'bias-motivated' crime.

To this end, I would like to invite you to nominate a member of your staff who is working specifically on hate crime, or closely related issues, who could attend the meeting. This will be followed up by [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]@fra.europa.eu) from the FRA's Freedoms and Justice Department, who will provide information – in due course – concerning a specific date for the meeting.

I look forward to your response, and to the possibilities offered by working together on this issue.

Regards,

[REDACTED]
Morten Kjaerum
Director