



Chapter 23 explanatory meeting – Serbia EU Fundamental Rights Agency

**European Commission
Directorate General for Justice
26 September 2013, Brussels**



Part I: The EU Fundamental Rights Agency

- **Legal basis:** Council Regulation n° 168/2007
- **Rationale:** *"Greater knowledge and awareness of fundamental rights issues in the Union is conducive to ensuring full respect for fundamental rights"*.
- **Mandate:** the FRA is an independent Agency which provides the Union and its Member States, when they implement Union law, with assistance and expertise relating to fundamental rights.
- The **FRA is financed by European Union funds** allocated on an annual basis by the European Union budgetary authority (EP & Council). The FRA's budget for 2012 is €20 million.
- **Geographical scope:** EU 28.



Main tasks

- The Agency's main task is to **collect and disseminate relevant, objective, reliable and comparable data** on the situation of fundamental rights in the EU within the scope of EU law. FRA is also tasked with raising awareness about fundamental rights
- The Agency carries out its tasks within the thematic areas determined by a **Multiannual Framework**.
- The **annual work programme** adopted by the Management Board of the Agency is the main planning tool of the Agency
- The Agency is not empowered to: examine individual complaints, exercise regulatory decision-making powers, represent the EU in international fora.

Areas of Activity of the Agency

The thematic areas of the Agency's work are determined through a five-year Multi-annual Framework (MAF). The current MAF states that the Agency may work in the following areas:

- (a) access to justice;
- (b) **victims** of crime, including compensation to victims of crime;
- (c) **information society** and, in particular, respect for private life and protection of personal data;
- (d) **Roma** integration;
- (e) **judicial cooperation**, except in criminal matters;
- (f) rights of the **child**;
- (g) **discrimination** based on sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation;
- (h) **immigration** and integration of migrants, **visa** and border control and **asylum**;
- (i) **racism**, xenophobia and related intolerance.

Structure of the Agency



- **Management Board:** consists of independent experts, one appointed by each Member State, two European Commission representatives and one independent expert appointed by the Council of Europe. The Management Board is responsible for defining the agency's work priorities, approving its budget and monitoring its work.
- The **Executive Board** is composed of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson of the Management Board, two other members of the Management Board and one of the representatives of the European Commission. The Executive Board prepares the decisions of the Management Board and advises the Director.
- The **Scientific Committee** consists of 11 highly qualified independent people who guarantee the scientific quality of the FRA's work.
- The FRA is headed by the **Director** who is supported by five departments.



Working methods and cooperation

- EU institutions, bodies & agencies
 - The European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council can make specific requests to the Agency. Examples: Opinion on draft data protection legislation (EP), Surveys on roma, homophobia and anti-semitism (Commission).
- Member States of the EU
 - National Liasons Officers & Project cooperation
- Council of Europe
 - Complementarity and added value
- Civil society
 - 300 civil society organisations are a member of the Fundamental Rights Platform
- National human rights institutions
- UN, OSCE & other international organisations