

Commission: European Court of Justice

Subject: UE 2030 Zero Violence Objective: How to eradicate gender-based violence, homophobia, xenophobia, racism, and antisemitism on a European level?

Author: Hellenic Republic

The Hellenic Republic of Greece, birthplace of the world's first democracy, is a unitary parliamentary republic. Its head of state, President Katerina Sakellariopoulou, holds a ceremonial role and has no real political power. Greece is currently ruled by the New Democracy party, led by Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis. The New Democracy party is part of the European People's Party (EPP), which holds the majority in the EU Parliament. Greece stands strongly in favor of a European commission on the fight against discrimination and violence in the context of EU law. It is the European Unions' mission to pave the way for innovative solutions to promote democracy, equality, and peace.

It is undeniable that the European Union's people, like all peoples in the world, are subject to forms of discrimination based on gender, religion, race, class, sexual orientation etc.: hate crimes have been on the rise and discrimination in employment is still very much present. To eradicate discrimination by 2030 is not a simple task. It requires international cooperation, compromise, and good faith.

The Hellenic Republic's position on the matter is clear: discrimination based on religion, race, gender, and sexual orientation must be condemned by law, for Europe's values of liberty, democracy, and peace rest on coexistence and equality. As a multicultural and democratic state, Greece has experience in matters of peaceful coexistence of nations and shall do its best to fulfill its role during this year's European Council.

Greece's aims at combating all forms of discrimination can be shown through multiple national legislations and ratified international treaties. As for the former, Greece has enacted in 2016 a law prohibiting discrimination on various grounds, including race, ethnicity, religion, disability, age, sexual orientation and gender identity. This law provides a legal framework for victims of discrimination to seek redress and for authorities to address discriminatory practices. It has also developed a national action plan against racism and discrimination on the same year, including awareness-raising campaigns, training for public officials, and the establishment of mechanisms and commissions to monitor and combat discrimination. It has also recently legalised same-sex marriage, making it the first majority Orthodox Christian country to do so. For the latter, Greece has ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD). These efforts align with Greece's obligations under international human rights treaties and conventions, including the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and the Racial Equality Directive of the European Union.

In conclusion, the Hellenic Republic, led by passionately pro-Europe and pro-democracy Kyriakos Mitsotakis, advocates for non-discrimination in the European Union and the world and will continue to do so. Greece encourages all member-states to bring viable solutions for discrimination in the EU in order to help create a more peaceful, egalitarian, and democratic Europe.