



Brussels, 19 July 2016  
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11365/16

FREMP 130  
JAI 682  
COHOM 102  
DROIPEN 132

## OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
On: 11 July 2016  
To: Delegations

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Subject: Outcome of Working Party on Fundamental Rights, Citizens' Rights and Free Movement of Persons

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### 1. Approval of the agenda

The agenda as set out in CM 3408/16 was adopted.

### 2. Multi-annual Framework for the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights

In its presentation of the newly tabled proposal<sup>1</sup>, the Commission underlined that the raison d'être of the proposal is the expiry in December 2017 of FRA's current Multi-annual Framework for the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (further MAF for FRA). MAF for FRA is not a working program but a list of thematic areas for FRA that is revised every 5 years. According to the procedure, FRA's Management Board was consulted by the Commission on its draft proposal. The Commission explained that the themes proposed in the next MAF were in line with the EU priorities and bear in mind the need to guarantee the continuity.

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<sup>1</sup> 10901/16 FREMP 127 JAI 644 COHOM 89

The Commission confirmed the existing thematic areas, removed the exclusion of judicial and police cooperation. The Commission underlined that FRA should be given the possibility to support this area by its research and data collection initiatives. Within the theme related to Roma integration the Commission has added social inclusion aspects in order to reflect the importance of the fundamental rights dimension of the increasingly relevant debate on social inclusion and vulnerability.

Several Member States entered scrutiny reservations on the Commission's proposal. Some Member States expressed their satisfaction over the inclusion of former third pillar activities to the new MAF for FRA while others asked whether necessary legal requirements to add those EU policies were fulfilled. Reference to similar discussions and legal assessment concerning the current MAF for FRA was made and the possibility of the amendment of the FRA's founding Regulation was mentioned.

As regards the addition on the social integration of the Roma, Member States were divided, some delegations considered it timely, others argued whether the social inclusion should have a specific focus on Roma. Other concerns raised by delegations related to the limited number of references to gender issues; the need to broaden the scope of discrimination to include discrimination on grounds of sexual identity; the alarming trends in several Member States when it comes to hate speech. The Commission explained that the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty changed the situation of the policies in question and there was no reason to exclude the judicial and police cooperation activities from the FRA's mandate. It also reminded how FRA's activity had evolved in the last years and that FRA had already published studies on criminal law and police cooperation.

### **3. AOB**

#### **a) Fundamental Rights Forum "Rights, Respect, Reality: the Europe of Values in Today's World", 20-23 June 2016**

The representative from FRA informed the meeting that the forum was the largest conference FRA has held so far and welcomed over 700 participants, including Vice-President Timmermans, who opened the event, and other high-ranking representatives from Member States, CoE, the UN as well as businesses representatives, academia and NGOs.

The 3 central themes discussed were refugees protection, inclusion and the digital age tackled in panel discussions and 28 working groups. One of the event's outputs was the Chair Statement available online<sup>2</sup>.

On the question to what extent the proposals put forward at the forum were going to be integrated in FRA's work, FRA clarified that many actions mentioned in the Chair Statement are already part of FRA's work, are carried out by or addressed to Member States and EU institutions. FRA will continue its work on the mainstreaming of fundamental rights and intends to provide appropriate follow up to suggested proposals.

**b) Launch meeting of the EU High Level Group on combating racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance**

The Commission informed that the launch meeting of the High Level Group had been held in Brussels on 14 June 2016. The High Level Group should have one-day plenary meetings twice to three times a year in Brussels. Additional meetings of the sub-group on recording and a data collection coordinated by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, and other sub-groups which may be created, may be held outside or in the margins of plenary meetings.

**c) Proposals for a Council decision on the signing on behalf of and on the conclusion by the European Union, of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence<sup>3</sup>**

The Presidency informed the meeting that discussions concerning these proposals would continue in September on the basis of doc. 10778/16.

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<sup>2</sup> [http://fundamentalrightsforum.eu/sites/default/files/fra\\_uploads/frf-2016-chairs-statement-0\\_en.pdf](http://fundamentalrightsforum.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/frf-2016-chairs-statement-0_en.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> 6695/16 + ADD 1, 6696/16 + ADD 1