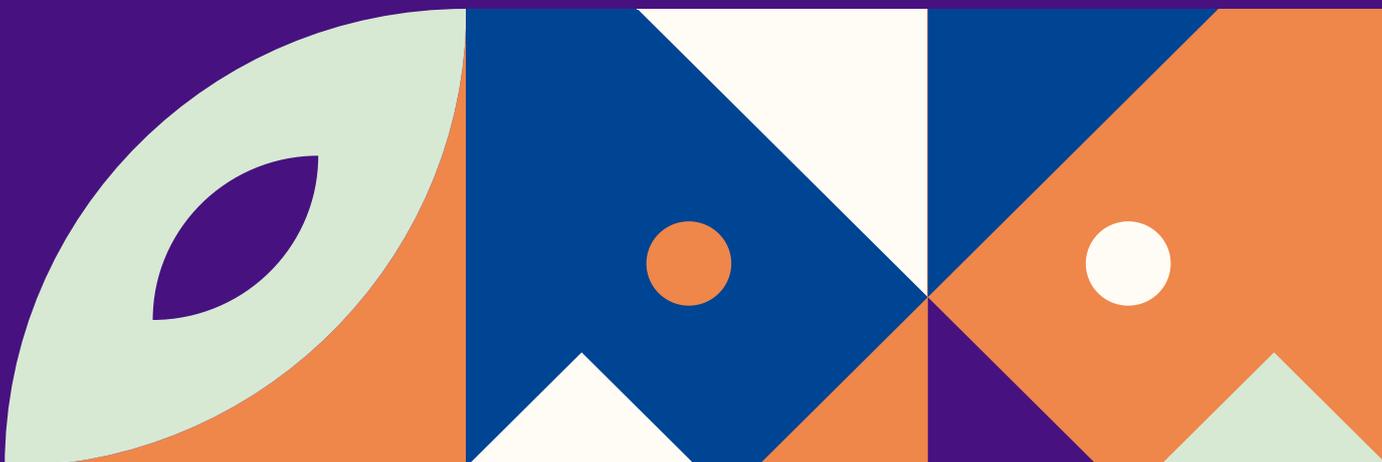




European
Commission



EUROPEAN
Anti-Racism
SUMMIT



21 MARCH 2022

Justice
and Consumers

in cooperation with



European Commission
against Racism and Intolerance



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



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Closing Session

Welcome

- *The moderator, **Shada Islam (SI)**, welcomed participants to the European Anti-Racism Summit, hosted by the European Commission in collaboration with the European Parliament ARDI Intergroup, and with the support of the Council of Europe's European Commission against Racism and Intolerance.*

SI noted the context in which the Summit was taking place, namely living with Covid 19, and the exacerbation

of inequality from the pandemic, and the tragic and deadly war in Ukraine. SI said that the war in Ukraine was also bringing out racism and discrimination at EU borders, and too many European politicians had made irresponsible, discriminatory, and hurtful statements about the conflict. News outlets covering the crisis have also been Eurocentric and sometimes openly racist. She remarked that we still have a long way to go in implementing the ambitious EU Anti-Racism Action Plan adopted in 2020.

Opening Session

- **Helena Dalli (HD)**, Commissioner for Equality, European Commission, welcomed participants to the second Anti-Racism summit and highlighted some of the key developments of the past twelve months in the implementation of the EU Anti-Racism Action Plan. She said, the first anti-racism coordinator was appointed to ensure coordination and mainstreaming into all relevant EU policies, as well as providing a direct point of contact to racialised communities and civil society organisations.

A Permanent Anti-Racism Civil Society Forum was set up to support the implementation of the Action Plan and to provide a clear structure for consultation, including ahead of the Summit and preparation of the [Common guiding principles for national action plans against racism and racial discrimination](#). The Commission followed up the report on the application of the Racial Equality Directive, which identified concrete challenges and areas for improvement.

The Equality data subgroup developed the [Guidance note on the collection and use of equality data based on racial or ethnic origin](#), which was presented at the High-Level Roundtable on Equality Data last September. In November, the Commission launched the [European Capitals of Diversity and Inclusion Award](#) to recognise best practices of local authorities as sources of inspiration for other European citizens and local authorities.

HD remarked that this year's summit was taking place during the European Year of Youth and said it was important to consult closely with young people, particularly racialised youth, in the fight against racism as they are the leaders of tomorrow.

HD restated the European Commission's commitment to continue to build on the fundamental principles and values of the European Union, which aim to protect all and to shape a better future for all generations to come.

- **Maria-Daniella Marouda (MM)**, Chair of Council of Europe's European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, expressed her hope that humanitarian diplomacy will prevail in the face of an aggressive war that has caused thousands of civilian casualties and devastated Ukraine and driven millions of people out of the country. She said the European Union and the Council of Europe were both built on the promise of peace in Europe, greater unity between Member States and shared values for equal rights.

MM said that the Council of Europe has engaged with Member States in setting new, comprehensive, and operational standards on combating racism and other forms of hate speech and hate crime. The standards have had a huge added value in the context of EU legislative work aimed at extending the list of EU crimes, namely categories of serious crimes with a cross border dimension to hate speech and hate

crime. She mentioned the additional protocol to the Cybercrime Convention concerning the criminalisation of racist and xenophobic content committed through computer systems.

MM spoke about the importance of involving younger generations in a meaningful way in the fight against racism and said that education is of the utmost importance to tackle the issue through schools. She mentioned in particular the teaching of history and the newly established Council of Europe Observatory on History Teaching in Europe, which hosted its first annual conference in December 2021.

- **Angelo Camufingo (AC)**, *Public speaker, activist, consultant from Germany*, said it is essential to remember why the Summit and the Action Plan are so crucial, noting that the publication of the Action Plan is the first time that structural racism has received high level recognition at the EU level. He said it was now time for decision-makers and Member States to leverage the learning contained in the Action Plan.

AC said that when the Black Lives Matter movement emerged in the United States, Europeans had tried to draw sharp distinctions between racism in the US and Europe, comfortably saying the problem in Europe was not on the same scale as in the US. However, in doing so, they grossly underestimated the lived realities of those affected by racism in Europe. AC then cited some examples of everyday systemic experiences of racism in Europe, highlighting racist crimes in the EU and noting that we can only guess how many incidents go unreported or are simply ignored.

AC talked about the war in Ukraine saying that war shines a clear light on racism in Europe. He highlighted the double standard of European solidarity towards Ukrainian refugees, while shutting out refugees generated by Europe's own invasions and occupations, past and present.

He said that to bring about meaningful change we need vigilance, a sense of responsibility and accountability, and an intersectional approach to anti-racist work. He noted that today's exchanges needed to go beyond reflection and lead to action and prevention to be actively anti-racist.

- **Reem Alabali-Radovan (RAR)**, *State Secretary for Integration and Anti-racism in Germany*, reminded the audience that the European union's motto is 'United in diversity' and that now more than ever it is vital to stand united in the face of the war in Ukraine and the fight against racism. She said that racism is not only a problem of those directly affected but that racism concerns us all. Racism impacts all of us, our peaceful co-existence and freedom, our cohesion, and our European values of human dignity, equality, and justice, she said. That is why the fight against racism is a task for European society as a whole. She noted that racism does not start with violence but rather with words that occur in daily life. Therefore, we must be vigilant when propaganda, disinformation and conspiracy theories are shared in our surroundings.

High Level Panel Discussion 1

National Action Plans against racism and racial discrimination: development, implementation, and good practices

- **Scene setting by Ana Gallego (AG)**, *Director-General, DG Justice and Consumers European Commission* stressed that Member States are central in the fight against racism and discrimination and promoting diversity and have a duty to ensure that EU law is fully transposed and properly applied at the national level.

AG reminded the audience that the EU Anti-Racism Action Plan encourages Member States to develop and adopt National Action Plans Against Racism and racial discrimination (NAPAR). National Action Plans that have already been adopted have proven to be a successful way for Member States to offer a targeted and effective response to racism and racial discrimination. AG noted that eleven Member States

already have Action Plans in place with another three in the process of finalisation.

AG highlighted the fact that the European Commission had established a subgroup for the national implementation of the EU Anti-Racism Action Plan. This subgroup is composed of representatives of Member States and worked closely with the Commission throughout last year. The primary task of the subgroup was to elaborate 'common guiding principles' required to produce effective NAPARs, and these guidelines have now been officially published. The next task of the subgroup will be to support Member States in their efforts by drafting indicators to monitor progress in the implementation of NAPARs.

PANELLISTS

- **Francisca van Dunem**, *Minister of Home Affairs, Portugal*

Francisca van Dunem (FVD) said that Portugal attaches a great importance to fundamental rights and the right to equality and non-discrimination, and last July adopted its National Action Plan against Racism 2021-2025. She said the NAPAR was the result of long and intense dialogue between all administration sectors, education, culture, health housing, employment and social affairs, and civil society.

FVD touched on the issue of racism and discrimination within law enforcement, noting concern about the reported incidents. She said the NAPAR has the advantage of drawing together in an integrated way and in a single instrument, the different aspects of the deconstruction of stereotypes and racial discrimination through education, training and awareness and promotion. The NAPAR takes an intersectional approach because of the understanding that people face multiple forms of discrimination, such as gender discrimination or poverty and social exclusion. She addressed also the question of nationality and laws of member states on nationality as one of the important factors for introducing equality in this field.

FVD highlighted the importance of monitoring and the need for data to do so effectively. In Portugal there were many debates about the issue of data collection, she said. She noted that attitudes on data had changed from when she was a criminal prosecutor in the 80s and believed that avoiding the collection of data on race was a good measure, which protected people from discrimination. But nowadays she knows that change can only come from facing the situation head on and to do so you need data.

Later in the discussion, FVD stressed that as a person of colour herself, she understood the anger and impatience of young people, as she has been facing this issue her whole life.

- **Alice Kuhnke**, *Member of the European Parliament, Greens/EFA Group*

Alice Kuhnke (AK) agreed on the importance of National Action Plans and said that Sweden had launched theirs in 2017. She expressed her frustration and dismay that only eleven Member States so far have NAPARs. She said that it should not be so difficult for other Member States to follow suit and that they could draw inspiration from the Swedish NAPAR if needed. AK said passionately that we need to push forward on this and have some sort of accountability for those who are dragging their feet, and demand that civil society and Member States come together to make things happen.

AK said that there was a lack of will when it comes to anti-racism and that racism was still acceptable among people with power in the EU. She said this was the reason for inaction, since not enough people were willing to

make a change. She said the European Parliament has an important voice in EU affairs but that there are still not enough politicians willing to do what is needed.

To make sure that NAPARs are effective, penalties are needed. As a politician herself, AK said that she knows what it takes to effect change and that financial penalties should be imposed for non-compliance.

AK also spoke about her own experience as a person of colour and highlighted the need to expose the culture of silence that prevails when it comes to racism. She said that she no longer holds back or stays silent to avoid creating of 'bad environment', and she would continue to use her voice to call out structural and individual racism.

- **Birgit Van Hout**, *Regional Representative for Europe, UN Human Rights Office*

Birgit Van Hout (BVH) reminded the audience about the significance of the date, which is the commemoration of the Sharpeville massacre in South Africa in 1960. She said that National Action Plans Against Racism first started to emerge in international law at the World Conference Against Racism in 2001, where the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action was adopted. The United Nations recommended that all countries adopt NAPARs and for the last twenty years, the UN Human Rights Office has been providing advice to the countries that are interested in moving forward in this process. BVH underscored that all EU Member States were expected to have NAPARs in place by the end of 2022.

In terms of the key elements of a NAPAR, BVH noted, that the process is as important as the outcome, for these action plans to have legitimacy. She also noted the need for ample consultation and participation of stakeholder from different fields. The NAPARs should also be broad in scope, factoring all forms of racism, be it structural or individual racism and address issues of causes and consequences of racism. They should also adopt a whole-of-society approach, working with the majority population to eradicate racism and ensure civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights. BVH noted that very often in Europe we still think of economic and social rights as services and not as rights. We need to view victims of racism as right holders with agency who were not born victims but who have become victimised due to what was 'done' to them.

BVT also stressed the need to view Europe in global context and in context of international obligations and monitoring mechanism which recommendations should be taken into account when elaborating NAPAR. BVH echoed the point about accountability and the importance of monitoring, reporting and indicators. Adopting NAPARs is one thing but their progress must be monitored in a transparent manner, tracking for example financial allocations to the different elements of the action plans.

- **Michael O’Flaherty**, *Director, European Agency for Fundamental Rights*

Michael O’Flaherty (MOF) shared his disappointment at the slow progress in eradicating racism saying that he had been part of the Durban Conference Against Racism twenty years ago and much still needed to be changed. Nevertheless, he welcomed the EU initiatives of the Action Plan and Summit.

MOF talked about data and how vital it is in ‘diagnosing’ the situation when it comes to racism and discrimination. He noted that data collection by Member States is patchy and not sufficiently disaggregated, and that the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) would continue to support Member States as they develop their data collection capacity. Another key issue is the underreporting of racist and discriminatory incidents/crimes, which is not the fault of people who are attacked or discriminated against. Underreporting is due to a lack of trust, and it is our collective duty to build trust by respectfully taking on board complaints, acting on them and delivering.

MOF said that without monitoring, the NAPARs would have no ‘teeth’. Measures must be pinned down by identifying the corresponding indicators, and then these indicators should be populated with data. For this, he said that an independent oversight mechanism was needed. He said the best plans in the world won’t achieve much without monitoring. The NAPAR should include an accountability mechanism, which will pose penalties for failure to adopt NAPAR and take actions in it stipulated.

MOF mentioned the actors involved in NAPARs, noting the importance of committed leadership at the national level.

- **Amina Odofin**, *Belgian Coalition for National Action Plans Against Racism*

Amina Odofin (AO) said that civil society is growing frustrated about having the same superficial discussions about racism and that racism should be recognised as a consequence of the patriarchy and capitalism. She noted on importance of addressing the past, especially colonialism in order to be able to tackle today’s racism. She also spoke of the need for an intersectional lens to fully unpack the different forms of racism that are embedded in European society.

Civil society is put in the position of having to tread very carefully when interfacing with the political sphere, for fear of being controversial and therefore excluded from discussions and she said that engagement with civil society can be tokenistic. AO said that civil society members should be viewed as experts not activists, and as colleagues and not as opponents. She also noted that a structure for a regular dialogue between governments and civil society should be established.

On the issue of data, AO said that civil society organisations are not allowed to collect diversity data so they are forced to consult academics who are the only ones who can legally collect diversity data.

- **Kim Smouter**, *Director, European Network Against Racism (ENAR)*

Kim Smouter (KS) spoke about systemic racism and the need for a system wide solution. For this, NAPARs are a way to bring people together with a common purpose and to define priorities, bringing together different ministries, the private sector, and civil society.

KS highlighted the importance of political will for action, noting the willingness to address the current crisis in Ukraine. In this sense, NAPARs are important because they set out the political will and mobilise Member States to back up with words with action, funding, and policy. NAPARs should be living documents, not just adopted, and then parked to one side, he said.

KS echoed the point about facilitating meaningful civil society participation, and for organisations to feel safe to speak their minds and be the voice of the disadvantaged. Civil society organisations are watchdogs, but they can only be watchdogs if they are properly financed. KS expressed concerns on lack of awareness on NAPAR and emphasized the need to raise awareness, so general public could know their rights, government’s obligations, and call onto government to fulfil its obligations.

On the point of equality data, KS spoke about the complexities around GDPR and legislation which hinders the collection of data by actors who would be willing to do so, for example in France. He said that this type of data is vital to compare the situation and processes between Member States.

- **Jeanette Gustafsdotter**, *Minister for Culture of Sweden*

Jeanette Gustafsdotter (JG) echoed the threat that racism poses to the fundamental values on which democracy and the European Union rest. She said that Sweden welcomes the strategic approach by the European Commission expressed through the EU Anti-Racism Action Plan.

She said that keys factors in the implementation of the Action Plan include a comprehensive approach, such as measures against racism in general, as well as against the different forms of racism. She mentioned the need for coordination and follow up with civil society organisations. JG said that knowledge and providing space for collaboration are of vital importance to the efforts set out in the Action Plan, and that civil society and racialised people themselves must be included.

JG announced that Sweden will host a conference on anti-racism during the Swedish presidency in the spring of 2023. She said the conference would offer an important platform for further discussion on how best to create a true union of equality.

Reactions of EU Anti-racism Coordinator

- **Michaela Moua**, (MM) *EU Anti-racism Coordinator*, thanked the panel for their interesting interventions and echoed the need to have ‘uncomfortable conversations’. Indeed, the emergence of the Anti-Racism Action Plan and Summit had come about from the ‘uncomfortable’ and tragic event of the death of George Floyd. She echoed the need for a systemic solution, saying that this is where Action Plans are extremely important.

MM noted that structural racism had been mentioned quite a few times during the session, saying that it was crucial for NAPARs to recognise and acknowledge structural racism and for policies to address structural racism proactively to make this seemingly abstract phenomenon visible.

MM echoed the issue of equality data, which makes the lived realities of people experiencing racism visible and helps to build evidence-based policy. As well as this, evidence-based policy should be intersectional, which was also mentioned in the discussion.

She shared that an important part of her mandate was building relationships with civil society to ensure the Commission’s work is informed by grassroots actors and civil society.

MM spoke about the need to be specific and the importance of language. She said that we need to recognise and mention in particular anti-black racism, anti-Muslim hatred, antisemitism, and anti-Roma racism.

VIDEO MESSAGES

- **Signe Riisalo**, *Minister of Social Protection, Estonia*

Signe Riisalo (SR) stated that statistics show that people experience racism the most when accessing employment, housing, education, and services. She said that Member States had set themselves goals such as to raise the employment rate of minorities, promote equal treatment, and increase reporting of racism. Estonia is committed to fighting racism in all fields, but still has a long way to go, she noted. Racism, although experienced daily, is most likely underreported and not always condemned by majority of society. Therefore, in Estonia there is a strong focus on awareness-raising activities, and in order to have the best guarantees of fair and equal treatment in access to employment, Estonia supports NGOs working directly with racialised communities.

- **Sarah Schlitz**, *State Secretary for Gender Equality, Equal Opportunities and Diversity*

Sarah Schlitz (SS) stated that Belgium is committed to tackling racism, particularly as there is a rise of racism in public and political debates, online and offline. Taking into consideration colonialism, Belgium has a special obligation to lead the way in the area of decolonising public spaces, and work is ongoing as well in the restitution of looted works possessed by Belgian museums. There is a need to acknowledge and rectify what has taken place, for we cannot fight racism with goodwill.

Last year, funding of the Belgian national equality body was increased to help victims of anti-black racism, anti-Roma racism, antisemitism, and Islamophobia.

High Level Panel Session 2

Enhancing participation of racialised youth in the fight against racism and discrimination

- **Scene setting by Mariya Gabriel**, *Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth*

Mariya Gabriel (MG) echoed to words of the European Commission President, Ursula von der Leyen, that Europe needs all its youth to help those with fewer opportunities, make their voices heard, find opportunities, and be actors of change in their communities. MG said

that there is no better way to fight racism than by bringing people together. Initiatives like Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps are two core programmes supporting the Year of Youth and have been doing so through education and youth projects, solidarity projects, and exchanges for decades.

Erasmus+ alone has supported more than 2,800 projects addressing inclusion and anti-discrimination

since 2014. MG said that to encourage young people to participate and be engaged, we must really listen to them. She voiced her pride in how strong young voices have been in recent years in support of fairness, and that the European Commission has a duty to live up to expectations.

PANELLISTS

- **Niki Kerameus**, *Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, Greece*

Niki Kerameus (NK) pointed out the difference of histories and therefore different experiences of race among Member States, saying that the details matter both in terms of focusing on the challenges and appropriate solutions. She said that the greatest challenge is unequal access to opportunities, which limits people early on in life. In addition, from a policy perspective, the most important challenge is to find the most effective set of tools which will truly assist the needs of racialised youth across Member States, and education is key for this. She particularly emphasized early childhood education to foster integration of communities, and the importance of access to formal and non-formal learning environment. NK said that we have a duty to focus on raising enrolment of racialised youth and decreasing early school leaving, promoting integration within schools. Quality and inclusive education for all racialised youth is one of the best avenues to equip young people with the necessary tools to succeed later on in life and achieve their true potential.

NK agreed on the issue of funding, saying that Greece has invested heavily in increasing access to education, with some €15 million committed to decreasing early school leaving for minority students. Greece has increased recruitment of educators across the country as well as refugee education coordinators to ensure overall equality and access to education for migrant and refugee students.

- **Celine Fabrequette**, *Managing Director, Diaspora Vote, Belgium*

Celine Fabrequette (CF) shared the disaffection of many racialised young people saying that they do not feel they belong, nor do they feel a sense of ownership of the European Union, or a say in the debates. She said that young people must be made to feel welcome, particularly when it comes to access to the European Union institutions. Another challenge is a lack of information and accessibility. She said institutions must make the effort of going to racialised communities instead of trying to bring them to the institutions. She said the Conference on the Future of Europe had missed the opportunity for meaningful participation by minority communities and the youth.

CF raised the point about funding of civil society organisations and the fact that youth organisations are often based on voluntarily work. She said that funding is vital for active participation and there is no reason for young people to be expected to sacrifice their

free time and work for free purely because of their convictions. She also emphasized the need to change the general attitude towards civil society organisations and create space for regular dialogue with them.

CF raised the issue of increasing accessibility for all, including people with disabilities, and said that the platforms developed by the European Commission for young people are not inclusive enough for people with disabilities.

CF regretted the absence of a role of the French presidency in the Anti-Racism summit, saying that commitment was needed to move forward.

Responding to a question from a youth representative, CF said that training of staff at the EU and national level on anti-racism was needed for racialised young people to feel safe when entering public spaces or approaching authorities.

- **Gabriela Ramos**, *Assistant Director-General for Social and Human sciences, UNESCO*

Gabriela Ramos (GR) said that more efforts must be made to make education inclusive and for racialised people to feel they are part of the conversation. This relationship has to be nurtured to make room for racialised young people and ensure a safe space for them. She said that changing attitudes takes time and this is apparent with other social issues, such as gender equality, where progress is slow.

GR noted that UNESCO and the EU are working closely to champion anti-racism through a number of public campaigns. She said that more efforts must be made to reach out to communities that are less inclined to engage. Connecting to youth networks is also important in this regard and there is an opportunity to harness the digital transformation to this end.

She gave the example of a youth initiative in Colombia by a regional council for decision; saying that first legislation is needed, then space must be created, and finally outreach to the communities and capacity development is necessary. GR furthermore stressed the importance of diversity and value of different voices, perspectives that lead to better outcomes when tackling inequality.

GR also mentioned a new initiative for young researchers from across the world for them to give their views on the impact the COVID19 pandemic has had on different aspects of their lives. She noted the importance of feeding youth voices into policymaking since young people have been impacted in specific ways.

On the question of ensuring diversity in the workforce, GR said that affirmative action was the key. She said that a greater push must be made to prioritise this issue, and for adequate resourcing to follow. She noted that while UNESCO is a global institution, there is still much work to be done to make its workforce more diverse.

- **Santiago Mbanda Lima**, *Activist, intersex and anti-racist activist, Angola/Portugal*

Santiago Mbanda Lima (SML) spoke about the topic of multiple identities and the importance of taking an intersectional approach. He spoke about the need for a collective approach and the fact that change is needed at the very top, from the European level to the national level, for change to trickle down to wider society. And in this regard, greater resources are needed to effect change in diversity, inclusion, and anti-racism.

SML echoed the need for equality data, saying that an opportunity was missed during a recent national census in Portugal where intersectional aspects were not included, such as questions on racial or ethnic background, sexual orientation, gender beyond the binary gender identity. He highlighted that the fact that this sort of data collection was not included, had been a subject of much debate

at the time in Portugal but to no avail. SML said that European equality data is not enough, and that national data is needed for informed policymaking.

SML spoke about the need for meaningful representation of racialised young people so that they see their interests represented in the public space. He said that sometimes it can take just one person to increase visibility and spoke of his pride in being a role model for others as the first intersex person in the public sphere in Portugal. He also differentiated between being allowed to participate and being allowed to actively participate and make a change.

SML agreed with the point that young people and grassroots organisations often work on a voluntary basis and this is taken for granted. He said that decision-makers need to be mindful of this and support these organisations with resources.

Reactions of EU Youth Coordinator

- **Biliana Sirakova (BS)** *EU Youth Coordinator*, responded to the topic of civil society participation in decision-making, specifically racialised youth, noting that it is an important deliverable of the EU anti-racism Action Plan. She said that last year a Permanent Anti-Racism Civil Society Forum was formed and met on a regular basis. She highlighted the fact that the agenda of the Anti-Racism Summit was very much due to extensive consultation with civil society, and that the voice of civil society was clearly present today. Indeed, it is thanks to this consultation process that a dedicated panel on racialised youth was included in the Summit, as part of the European Year of Youth.

BS said that during her mandate she will continue to work with civil society and focus on capacity building of these grassroots actors. She noted that the European Commission has a specific citizen's equality rights and values programme, which is investing €23 million in projects that combat racism and discrimination.

BS was pleased that a strong message had been sent during the Summit about the critical role that young people and racialised youth have to play in fighting anti-racism and building more tolerant and just societies. She stressed that young people are at the forefront and have historically championed positive change and been defenders of important causes, such as the environment, peace movements, and human rights.

BS spoke about the need to raise awareness about opportunities that exist for all young people to benefit from, but particularly racialised youth and young people who have fewer opportunities. She noted that some of

these opportunities can be life changing and set young people on a different, more positive course in their lives. She mentioned the European Commission's European Youth Portal as a positive step in this direction. BS said that to have meaningful participation, young people need to understand how institutions function, and she was pleased that the European Commission is taking steps to put out information on policies that affect young people, while communicating with clear and accessible language.

VIDEO MESSAGES

- **Corinne Cahen**, *Minister of Family Affairs and Integration, Luxembourg*

Corinne Cahen (CK) stated that the fight against racism and all forms of discrimination is a priority for the Luxembourgish government. She noted that Luxembourg is a multicultural country and almost half its inhabitants do not have Luxembourgish nationality. Luxembourg is currently revisiting its legislation on integration and in this context, the Commission's work and recommendations are very useful.

A major national study on racism in Luxembourg was launched last year and Luxembourg published a national action plan for integration that addresses issues related to the high population diversity and the fight against all forms of discrimination. Luxembourg has many projects that aim at combating racism, stereotypes, and discrimination and gave the example of a project that raises awareness among young people on the issue of discrimination by applying an innovative digital creation method, encouraging young people and their families to explore the phenomena of discrimination through the production of multilingual digital storytelling.

- **Mariana Vieira da Silva**, *Minister of State for the Presidency, Portugal*

Mariana Vieira da Silva (MVDS) said that everywhere in Europe and the world hate speech, racial violence and social exclusion are on the rise and that we must take a stand against them. That is why Portugal is backing the European Union in implementing the EU anti-racism agenda, which is a crucial agenda for Europe that speaks to the very core of our society.

She said that in developing Portugal's National Action Plan Against Racism, it was necessary for all governmental departments, ministries, and administrative bodies to work together, and to bring together anti-racist organisations and representatives of migrant and rural communities to share their experience. The national action plan recognises racism as a structural problem, and that fighting it is a collective shared responsibility. It identifies key integration areas, such as education, justice, health, employment, housing, and data collection.

- **Georgios Kotsiras**, *Deputy Minister of Justice, Greece*

Georgios Kotsiras (GK) noted that Greece adopted its NAPAR in 2020 and is being implemented. GK stated that the protection and promotion of democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms constitute the basic principles of the constitutional of Greece. Greece attaches the utmost importance to the safeguarding of human rights and fundamental freedoms apply to everyone in Greece. The protection of democratic institutions and the respect for the rule of law are key and intolerance and discrimination constitute a violation of fundamental rights and human dignity.

He said that the development and implementation of the national action plan against racism and intolerance

is paramount as it complements the national and European legislative framework with robust actions and commitments. The long-term objectives of the national action plan are to effectively address the phenomena of racism, intolerance, and discrimination. The identification of common guiding principles is vital to ensure the close involvement of civil society.

- **Elena Bonetti**, *Minister for Equal Opportunities and Family, Italy*

Elena Bonetti (EB) stated that the most widespread form of discrimination in Italy continues to be discrimination on the basis of ethnic and racial background. Italy is currently engaged in drafting a new national plan against racism and intolerance inspired by the European Union Anti-Racism Action Plan, which asks Member States to adopt national action plans by 2022.

Italy's national action plan aims to provide support for national policies in the field of preventing and combating racism, in line with the obligations assumed at an international and European level, with the aim of contributing to a multi-ethnic, multicultural, multi-religious and open democratic society. Italy has made sure to involve civil society organisations working in the field of preventing and combating ethnic and racial discrimination in the process. Last year, Italy launched a large call for expression of interest and more than one hundred and twenty organisations answered the call to cooperate in the drafting of the action plan.

To mark the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Italy is carrying out a number of activities throughout the week, to promote information and awareness-raising initiatives, to foster the fight against inequalities, and prevent discrimination through educational, cultural, artistic, and sport activities.

Break-out session 1

Racialised communities and law enforcement

MODERATING

- **Larry Olomofe**, *Managing Director, Cosmodernity Consultants, Poland*

SCENE SETTING

- **Elise Lassus**, *Researcher in the Research and Data Unit, European Agency for Fundamental Rights*

PANELLISTS

- **Laurent Muschel**, *Director, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs*
- **Gloria Gonzalez Fuster**, *Research Professor Digitalisation & a Europe of Rights and Freedom, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium*
- **David Martin**, *Chief Inspector of the Operational Response Area Local Police Service of Fuenlabrada, Spain*
- **Romeo Franz**, *Member of the European Parliament, Greens/EFA Co-president of the ARDI Intergroup, Germany*
- **Rima Hanano**, *Director, CLAIM Allianz, Germany*

RAPPORTEUR

- **Isabela Mihalache**, *Senior Advocacy Officer, European Roma Grassroots Organisations*

The breakout session explored the topic of racial and/or ethnic profiling commonly used by law enforcement officers to prevent, investigate and prosecute criminal offences. However, profiling that results in discrimination on the basis of special categories of personal data, such as data revealing racial or ethnic origin, is illegal.

These points were further developed by representatives during the discussion, who highlighted that discrimination and profiling remains a reality in the EU and that new technologies are challenging the protection of fundamental rights. The negative effects of AI, including facial recognition technology, have not been properly assessed and are a threat to human rights protections, especially when fundamental rights interfere with the data and tools that are being used.

The main discussion focused on racism within the police, where the representative from the Spanish police pointed to a need to rethink policing and move towards a human rights based approach where victims are at the center. He stated that police are a reflection of wider society and therefore racism is also present. The Commission representative highlighted that the Commission is taking various actions to ensure that law enforcement protects everyone in the same way through a series of actions, such as training, building trust between communities and the police, developing mechanisms of protections including

protections of places of worship. The Commission also took on board that AI data needs to be wide enough and include information on all population to prevent racial discrimination and AI profiling.

The civil society representative discussed bias in society and by the police against Muslims, and the fact that discriminatory incidents continue to be underreported. Muslims continue to be associated with radicalisation, violence, and terrorism and therefore stigmatised.

Questions from the audience via Slido focused on institutional racism, accountability, risks of artificial intelligence, but also protection of civil society organisations. Recommendations focused on the need for political will to highlight and fight racism or for clear guidance on the design, implementation, and monitoring of new technologies. There is a need for more transparency around police data collection, including through auditing, and a need to change the mentality of the police and focus on protecting human rights and the victims rather than focusing on offenders.

There is a need for stronger legislation to address discrimination and racism in policing. Finally, there was a broader recommendation on the need for a human rights-based approach to effectively address and fight racism in society, and that training alone is not enough but that structural racism must be tackled. More thought is needed to establish more comprehensive systems to fight unconscious bias, especially at the level of senior management in police and law enforcement.

Break-out session 2

Environmental racism and climate justice Tackling racism and racial discrimination through legislation

MODERATING

- **Vera Winthagen**, *JRC 01, European Commission*

SCENE SETTING

- **Arnold Kreilhuber**, *Head of the International Environmental Law Unit in the Division of Environmental Law and Conventions of the United Nations Environment Programme*

PANELLISTS

- **Teresa Aristegui**, *DG ENER B1, European Commission*
- **Ufuk Kâhya**, *Member of the Committee of Regions, Alderman of Hertogenbosch, the Netherlands*

- **Gabriela Hrabanova**, *ERGO Network*
- **Archana Ramanujam**, *ENAR*
- **Linda Greta Zsiga**, *Romani activist*
- **Rosamund Kissi-Debrah**, *World Health Organisation Advocate for Health and Air and Quality and co-founder of the Ella Roberta Family Foundation*

RAPPORTEUR

- **Vera Winthagen**, *JRC 01, European Commission*

The breakout session included some first-hand experiences of racialised communities who themselves shared their experiences of discrimination and racism. The discussion then moved to how racialised communities

are disproportionately affected by environmental and climate racism and injustices. Researchers contributed the wider framework to the discussion, with the European Commission, the Committee of Regions, and the United Nations Environmental Program providing the policy and legislative context.

Discussion centred on the how people are excluded and how this relates to climate-related migration within the post-colonialism context. Ideas were shared on how the Green Deal can help address these inequalities and is already contributing positively.

The panel agreed that climate justice must start with listening and addressing inequalities of the past.

There is a perception that the Green Deal is mainly an economic deal, but it also contains many social aspects, which need to be brought to the forefront. The discussion also mentioned the Social Climate Action Fund and its role in addressing climate inequality. Generally, participants agreed that the Green Deal is a unique mechanism, and that a collective effort must be made to ensure that its potential is fully realised.

The discussion briefly touched on the situation in Ukraine and the fact that the green transition will likely be sped up as a result of the conflict. There was also a warning that local municipalities must be involved in the process to develop policies that overcome energy poverty to the benefit of all people in society.

Break-out session 3

The effects of racism in education

MODERATING & SCENE SETTING

- **Domenica Biidu Ghidei**, *Bureau member of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), Council of Europe*

PANELLISTS

- **Salima Yenbou**, *Member of the European Parliament, Committee on Culture and Education, France*
- **Anna-Maria Giannopoulou**, *Deputy Head, Unit for Schools and Multilingualism, DG-EAC, European Commission*
- **Margareta Matache**, *Instructor and Director of the Roma Program at Harvard University, Romania*
- **Luisa Black de Bivar**, *Former university teacher of history and teacher education, currently expert and consultant on history and civic education, Portugal*
- **Daniel Gyamerah**, *Each One Teach One (EOTO), Community-based education and empowerment project, Berlin, Germany*
- **Marina Csikos**, *Project assistant, Phiren Amencia, Hungary*
- **Robin Sclafani**, *CEJI- a Jewish Contribution to an Inclusive Europe*

RAPPORTEUR

- **Vasili Sofiadellis**, *Founder & President, Changemakers Lab*

The aim of the breakout session was to discuss how disparities in education are produced, how to better understand the consequences of these embedded racial inequities and how they can be eliminated to ensure that all children and youth have the same opportunities for educational attainment.

The session started with an overview of inclusive policies that focus on quality education, to improve the chances of success and integration and make the voices of minority people heard. The discussion confirmed that discrimination in education is undeniable and that structured discrimination is present across sectors. Panellists agreed that while discrimination must be tackled on all fronts, education is most certainly the priority area to focus on; specifically, preventing the segregation of racialised children in schools and fostering change through the development of inclusive curricula.

Providing quality education for all should be a priority, with systemic targeted support for learners at risk of falling behind. In this regard, the Commission mentioned an upcoming initiative, the EU Pathways to School Success, which strives to decouple academic achievement from socio-economic or ethnic status.

Books and educational materials should feature people from diverse backgrounds so that students can see themselves reflected. This also applies to teaching staff themselves, which should be recruited to represent more diverse backgrounds. Participants agreed that appropriate training of both teachers and school staff is crucial.

The thought-provoking session explored *the different layers in which racism takes place, often beginning in primary and even preschool education, but also discussed bullying and the way children are categorised within certain groups because of their appearance and the way they dress. The discussion also touched on access to education of marginalised communities and the invisible barriers that are in place.*

Break-out session 4

Examination of the past: restitution and decolonisation of public spaces

MODERATION

Shanon Bobinger, *Systemic Life-, & Business Coach/ Moderator/ Public Speaker, Germany*

Studies programs at Seattle University, United States

SCENE SETTING

Anne Wetsi-Mpoma, *Art historian, curator, author and gallery owner, Belgium/Congo*

The breakout session included participants from very diverse backgrounds, which led to an interesting discussion from different perspectives. A common point was the identification of racism and discrimination as being deeply rooted in the collective mind-set from colonialism. This colonial past is an issue that still needs to be addressed, through a culture of remembrance.

PANELLISTS

- **Laura Nsengiyumva**, *Artist, Belgium*
- **Pierrette Herzberger-Fofana**, *Member of the European Parliament, Greens/EFA, Co-president of the ARDI Intergroup, Germany*
- **Timea Junghaus**, *Executive Director of the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERAC) and art historian and contemporary art curator, Germany*
- **Sheray Warmington**, *Research fellow at the Center for reparation research of the University of the West Indies.*
- **Josefina Skerk**, *Advocate for Sami Rights, a Member of the Sami Parliament and former Vice President, Sweden*
- **Malick Ndiaye** *Associate Professor in the Modern Languages and the African and African American Studies programs at Seattle University, France*
- **Ronny Naftaniel**, *Vice Chair CEJI*

The discussion turned to how cultural institutes can facilitate the restitution of looted arts and why talking about colonialism and examining the past is important, while acknowledging that minorities are still racialised and discriminated in all European countries today.

One panellist referred to the example of Belgium and in particular its African Museum which contains artefacts from the colonial period in Congo and pointed to the difficulties to engage the Belgian state with experts from the diaspora in the process of restitution of looted property.

All participants agreed that racism is a global issue and an ongoing challenge affecting Europe. Recommendations were made by the panellists, including the need to involve civil society organisations and minorities in the conversation with institutions; more funding for anti-racism initiatives; the creation of spaces such as a European restitution institution; building more clear guidelines and policies to criminalize the circulation of looted arts; and engaging Europe in a reflection about colonial crime.

RAPPORTEUR

- **Malick Ndiaye**, *Associate Professor in the Modern Languages and the African and African American*

Closing Session

- **José Luis Escrivá Belmonte**, *Spanish Minister of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration*

José Luis Escrivá Belmonte (JLEB) thanked all the participants for their contributions to the Summit and said that the Summit had provided an opportunity to assess progress made on the Anti-Racism Action Plan and share experiences from different contexts. JLEB spoke of the need to renew commitments to identify racism in all its forms, since bringing awareness is a central element to the fight against discrimination.

Hate and discrimination are taking new forms and spread through new channels such as social media.

New discourses are taking subtle forms and becoming endemic to the political debate, which we must identify and confront.

JLEB echoed the calls to consult more broadly and systematically with civil society. He mentioned the Spanish strategic framework for citizen inclusion, which was inspired by the Anti-racism Action Plan. The strategic framework seeks to change governmental procedures and public policies at all levels of government to facilitate the elimination of discrimination. In doing so, it gives a central role to civil society in its design and implementation.

JLEB spoke of the need to be proactive, delve deeper into the social, economic, and cultural conditions under which racism and hate flourish and built counter-racism narrative in our everyday lives. He said that appropriate tools to gather good data are needed and this point was reflected in all the discussions of the Summit.

- **Věra Jourová**, *European Commission, Vice-President for Values and Transparency*

Věra Jourová (VJ) thanked all participants for an active and engaged discussion throughout the second edition of the European Anti-Racism Summit. The Summit was an opportunity to take stock of how Member States have been implementing Anti-Racism Action Plan, which was adopted by the European Commission just over a year and a half ago. When it comes to tackling racism, structural systemic change is needed, and the Summit had put the spotlight on challenges which European citizens of colour continue to face due to racism and racial discrimination.

VJ emphasized the struggles of today's realities when it comes to COVID19 pandemic or the unlawful aggression in Ukraine, and emphasized that all those fleeing the war will be provided help and support without discrimination.

Racism divides and weakens our societies, she said, and it is rooted in deeply embedded prejudices that give rise to negative stereotypes. Therefore, the EU Anti-racism Action Plan is determined to address structural racism and put this at the forefront of the struggle. The Action Plan introduced ambitious goals and close cooperation and coordinated efforts with all Member States are needed to meet these goals. VJ also spoke of the need to facilitate participation from minority communities, as well as involving civil society and grassroots organizations, academics, and institutions to tackle the issue from all angles.

VJ noted that Member States and EU institutions have demonstrated their strong commitment by adopting the Council Conclusions on Racism and Antisemitism and by submitting their national strategies in line with the Council Recommendation on the Equality, Inclusion and Participation. She said the Commission would continue to support these efforts, be it by assisting in developing indicators to measure the progress or by developing a compendium of effective practices.

The Commission will also continue supporting civil society organisations by providing funding to projects that tackle racism, racial discrimination, hate crimes, and hate speech, including online hate speech.

VJ extended her gratitude for the participation of young people in today's summit and acknowledged their important role in combating racism. The aim of the dedicated high-level panel session was to amplify their important contribution.

VJ concluded by thanking all participants and underscored the importance of being attentive to all forms of racism and racial discrimination, continuing to work together for better policies and practices that leave no one behind.