



## GRAPELOUX Claire

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The EU acts on behalf of EU citizens to prevent them being discriminated against on grounds of racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. The European Commission takes action to improve knowledge of discrimination by raising awareness among the population of their rights and obligations and also of the benefits of diversity; to support intermediary actors such as NGOs, social partners and equality bodies to improve their capacity to combat discrimination; to support the development of equality policies at national level and encourage the exchange of good practices between EU countries; to achieve real change in the area of anti-discrimination through anti-discrimination training activities; and to push for business-oriented diversity management as part of a strategic response to a more diversified society, customer base, market structure and workforce. In addition to the two Directives (Racial Equality Directive and Employment Framework Directive), the European Commission adopted in July 2008 a Communication which presents a comprehensive approach to stepping up action against discrimination and to promoting equal opportunities and a Commission Decision creating a non-discrimination governmental experts group. The European Commission supports also equal treatment of the Roma, the EU largest ethnic minority. The European institutions and EU countries have a joint responsibility to improve the social inclusion and integration of Roma by using all the respective instruments and policies for which they are responsible. In the past, the EU has repeatedly stressed the need for better integration of Roma, such as in its April 2010 Communication on the economic and social integration of the Roma in Europe. Despite this, strong and proportionate measures are still not in place to tackle the deep-rooted problems facing a large proportion of the EU's Roma population. In order to step up a gear and ensure that national, regional and local integration policies focus on Roma in a clear and specific manner, on 5 April 2011 the Commission adopted a Communication on an EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies by 2020.

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### MARS - Media Against Racism in Sport

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