



REPUBLIC OF POLAND  
Human Rights Defender

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Warsaw, 6<sup>th</sup> March 2012

**Ms Laurien Koster**  
**President of the Dutch**  
**Equal Treatment Commission**

Commissie Gelijke Behandeling  
Postbus 16001  
3500 DA Utrecht  
Holandia

*Excellency,*

Bearing in mind our mutual membership in EQUINET that strengthens actions taken for equal treatment on the European level, I would like to bring a matter that received a lot of coverage by Polish media to your attention.

I was very concerned to learn that a website was set up that encourages to notify undesired behaviour of and offences perpetrated by immigrants from Central and Eastern European countries. The website is promoted by the Dutch Party for Freedom and its leader, Mr Geert Wilders.

According to information found in the press, the website allows anonymous notification (all you need to do is state your first name) of harm done by losing one's job for the benefit of a person from Poland, Bulgaria or Romania or any other behaviour undesirable to the Dutch, and it disseminates discriminatory content by publishing banners containing messages critical of people from Central and Eastern Europe. I was frustrated to learn, as stated by Mr Geert Wilders, that the website has already received over 40,000 notifications. The results of recent polls, quoted by the media, show that about two-thirds of the Dutch are unhappy with the influx of immigrants from Poland. Of course, it may be sometimes the case that immigrants themselves give rise to unfavourable opinions, but it seems that the scale of the issue is also due to prejudice and stereotypes referred to and strengthened by the Party for Freedom and associated circles.

Therefore, I would like to ask you for information on the position of the Dutch Equal Treatment Commission on the matter. I would also like to learn about legal remedies

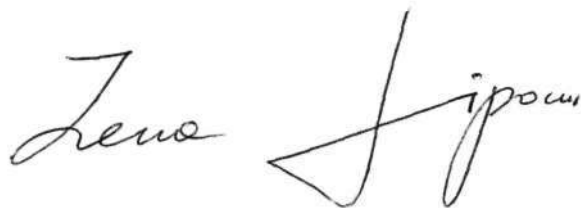
available to the Commission in such case and if the Dutch law provides for measures to end such practices. According to the press, actions taken by the Party for Freedom do not breach the law, but maybe it would be worthwhile to analyse whether and to what extent the Party breaches the equal treatment principle.

I found solace in the opinions of some Dutch who criticised the initiative by the Party for Freedom as too far-fetched in their xenophobic attempts and who demanded that the website was closed down.

I would also like to ask you if the Dutch Equal Treatment Commission is able to carry out social and educational campaigns aimed at strengthening openness of the Dutch society to immigrants and if the Commission has any plans to carry out such campaigns.

Perhaps there are governmental programs for the integration of foreigners Poland could encourage its citizens staying in the Netherlands to join? I hope you could analyse the website as part of your work, as the Commission is a body having first-hand knowledge of Dutch law, its social situation as well as vast experience in counteracting discrimination.

Please receive the assurance of my highest consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jeroen Jipouw". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

Attn: Mr Janusz Stańczyk, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland in Hague.