

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 September 2020 09:04
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: JHA Agencies Network Meeting 23-24 September - item Joint Statement Charter FR - request for input - deadline 18.09.2020 COB
Attachments: Charter exchange JHA agencies_FIN.docx

Dear contact points of the JHAAN,

Please note that the item *Joint Statement on the Charter of Fundamental Rights: annual exchange* will be on the agenda for our upcoming network meeting on 23-24 September.

Under this item we want to exchange experiences in regards to the implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. The joint statement signed by the Head of Agencies on 12 November 2019 refers in point 5 to an exchange among JHA Agencies of “practices regarding the implementation of the Charter in the Justice and Home Affairs area on an annual basis”.

For an efficient first exchange of experiences, we would kindly ask you to provide your input before the meeting, by filling in the attached template. See more background information below.

Please send your input directly to Mr [REDACTED] in copy, by Friday 18 September COB.

Mr [REDACTED] Policy Coordinator at FRA, will deliver a short presentation on 24 September to brief us on recent developments in this area and to report on the input received.

Please find below some further background information.

Kind regards, [REDACTED]

The statement: a joint commitment to an annual exchange

On 12 November 2019 the 9 Heads of JHA Agencies’ signed a [joint statement](#) on the implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. In this statement the Head of agencies commit to:

1. contribute to the protection of fundamental rights as they are an integral part of their work;
2. promote and raise awareness regarding fundamental rights as enshrined in EU law, especially in the Charter, including by providing effective training to agency staff;
3. support fundamental rights in agency processes, including gender equality and diversity in the workplace (Articles 20, 21, 22, 23 and 26 of the Charter in particular);
4. ensure compliance with the Charter in all activities;
5. exchange, within the network of Justice and Home Affairs Agencies, practices regarding the implementation of the Charter in the Justice and Home Affairs area on an annual basis.

The background: the 20 anniversary of the Charter’s proclamation

On 7 December 2020 it will be exactly 20 years ago that the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights was proclaimed in Nice. The Charter and its implementation is therefore a topical theme that is of relevance to many actors. Before this anniversary the European Commission will present its new Strategy revisiting the 2010 “[Strategy for the effective implementation of the Charter](#) of Fundamental Rights by the European Union”. The new Strategy will presumably add emphasis on the implementation of the Charter at the national level. While the FRA has in its recent [focus section of the Fundamental Rights Report 2020](#) thrown light on the role of national actors in the implementation of the Charter, it dealt specifically with the role of agencies in its 2018 opinion on “[Challenges and opportunities for the implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights](#)”. In this opinion, the FRA called on EU

agencies to “exchange their practices and experiences, including in the relevant agencies’ networks, on how to best assist EU Member States in implementing the Charter. Member States in turn could annually exchange experiences and express needs with regard to assistance from EU agencies in the Council’s Working Party on Fundamental Rights, Citizen’s Rights and Free Movement of Persons (FREMP).”

Preparing the annual exchange of 24 September 2020:

In preparation of the first annual exchange implementing point 5 of the joint statement, members of the network are invited to submit by 21 September information on any institutional experience or current internal thinking with regard to internal compliance and support (agency internal processes), external compliance and support (agency activities) and awareness raising (including training to staff). This can be done by filling in the attached template. Based on the evidence collected, FRA will introduce the exchange on 24 September with the ambition to spark a first mutual exchange and resulting learning process how best to move forwards in bringing the implementation of the Charter – proclaimed 20 years ago – forward.

[Redacted]
Senior Policy Advisor
Institutional Affairs Office



EUROJUST
P.O. BOX [Redacted]
2500 BD The Hague

[Redacted]