



**EUROPEAN UNION**

DELEGATION TO UKRAINE

Ambassador, Head of Delegation

Kyiv, 10 September 2013

JMVL /tz / del-ukraine.91(2013)3227087

Dear Mr Maymulakhin,

Thank you for your letter and for your efforts to ensure that the envisaged amendments to the Anti-Discrimination Law will bring the Ukrainian legislation closer to international best practices. In order to ensure that the new legislation is in line with the principles of the EU acquis and the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights, the EU has agreed with Ukraine to organize a TAIEX seminar with leading experts from EU member states. This seminar, that is now being organized and should be announced in the coming weeks, will help decision-makers to enlarge their knowledge of the extensive experience of EU member states in anti-discrimination legislation and policy.

The EU is committed to the principle of the universality of human rights and reaffirms that cultural, traditional or religious values cannot be invoked to justify any form of discrimination, including discrimination against LGBTI persons. The EU is aware that discrimination on the basis of real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity occurs around the world when LGBTI persons try to access jobs, health care or education. Through the adoption in June 2013 of the EU Guidelines on the support of Human Rights of LGBTI persons, the EU reaffirmed its commitment to actively address the root causes of this injustice.

Through the Visa Liberalisation Action Plan, that spells out the technical conditions to be met by Ukraine for the establishment of a visa-free travel regime, the EU is actively promoting the adoption by Ukraine of comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, in compliance with recommendations of UN and Council of Europe monitoring bodies. The Action Plan also requires Ukraine to fully implement anti-discrimination legislation.

Let me assure you that this benchmark of the Visa Liberalisation Action Plan stands firmly in place. The EU continues to use its excellent dialogue with Ukrainian political leaders to persuade of the need to adopt legislation that will empower Ukrainian citizens to fully assert their Constitutional right to equality and non discrimination, including on the grounds of sexual orientation.

Yours sincerely,

Jan Tombiński

Andriy Maymulakhin  
Coordinator  
LGBT Human Rights NASH MIR Center  
E-mail: [coordinator@gay.org.ua](mailto:coordinator@gay.org.ua)

101 Vladimirska Str., Kyiv, Ukraine 01033  
Telephone: switchboard +380 (44) 390 8010. Fax: +380 (44) 390 80 15