



Fundamental rights: challenges and achievements in 2010

Foreword

2010 was in various ways a watershed year in fundamental rights in the European Union (EU). For instance, the commonly agreed EU rules on free movement and non-discrimination were intensively discussed, notably in the context of the rights of persons belonging to minorities such as the Roma. This set a clear political signal as regards the legally binding character of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union when implementing EU law.

This annual report of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) covers the main events and developments in the area of fundamental rights in the EU during 2010. It is different from previous annual reports both in content and form. As its new title *Fundamental rights: challenges and achievements* signals, this annual report provides a review of the main fundamental rights developments and events in the EU in 2010. Each successive annual report will increasingly allow for the identification of trends in an area built on the common values that form the basis of the process of European integration and the Member States' constitutional traditions.

The annual report encompasses the full range of fundamental rights issues covered by the scope of the FRA mandate. It looks at developments at both European as well as national level, also taking into account international standards. Various institutions and mechanisms, such as those established by the Council of Europe, continue to provide valuable information for this report.

We would like to thank the members of the FRA Management Board for diligently overseeing the process of completing the Annual Report and the FRA Scientific Committee for the valuable advice they provide to guarantee the soundness of this important FRA report. Special thanks go to the National Liaison Officers who commented on a draft of this report, thereby improving its quality and ensuring correct factual information at EU Member State level.

We also take this opportunity to thank the staff of the FRA for their commitment and hard work on this and all the other FRA reports during the year.

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