

European Equal Pay Day – It's time to close the gap

The European Commission will mark the importance of equal work for equal pay with a Gender Pay Gap event on Thursday 3 March from 14:00-16:30 at Bedestan, Nicosia. The aim of the event is to generate discussion about equal pay for equal work and the strategies to reduce the gender pay gap. The EU policy and examples from Europe will be presented at the event.

European Equal Pay Day is an awareness raising campaign by the European Commission on the gender pay gap. The Commission instituted the European Equal Pay Day on 5 March 2011 to be held each year to increase awareness of the fact that a wage gap between women and men still exists and that women have to work longer than men to earn the same.

The event will host two guest speakers: Anne Lammila, Finland's Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues and Gender Equality and Ina Brouwer, Former Dutch MP, Former Director Emancipation at Dutch Ministry Social Affairs & Employment, Lawyer who will discuss European strategies on addressing the gender pay gap.

The event is an opportunity to discuss practical solutions to the gender pay gap issue and how these can also be applied in the Turkish Cypriot community.

Background:

Equal pay for equal work is one of the European Union's founding principles, embedded in the Treaties since 1957. Currently, the principle of equal pay is enshrined in Article 157 (ex Article 141) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), stipulating that "each Member State must ensure the principle of equal pay for male and female workers for work of equal value is applied". This article has provided a basis for the adoption of European legislation on equal pay:

Directive 2006/54/EC provides the concept of equal pay for work of equal value. Article for of this directive provides that for the same work or for work to which equal value is attributed, direct and indirect discrimination on grounds of sex with regard to all aspects and conditions of remuneration shall be eliminated. This provision also stipulates that in particular, where a job classification system is used for determining pay, it shall be based on the same criteria for both men and women and so drawn up as to exclude any discrimination on grounds of sex.

The Strategy for equality between women and men represents the European Commission's work programme on gender equality for the period 2016-2019. One of its priorities is "Equal pay for equal work and work of equal value". Source: : http://ec.europa.eu/justice/gender-equality/files/documents/160111_strategic_engagement_en.pdf

Interested individuals can get more information on this event by contacting the EU Infopoint: info@abbilgi.eu, 228 2577

Media contact: Selen Mesutoğlu Altan, selen.altan@abbilgi.eu or 0533 840 8583

