

## ROADMAP

Title of the initiative: **Communication on the EU Fundamental Rights policy**  
Type of initiative (CWP/Catalogue/Comitology): CWP  
Lead DG: DG JLS/D1  
Expected date of adoption of the initiative (2010): 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2010  
Date of modification: 25/3/2010  
Version No: 1

### Initial IA screening & planning of further work

#### **A. Context and problem definition**

What is the political context of the initiative? (ii) How does this initiative relate to past and possible future initiatives, and to other EU policies?

With the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, the Charter of Fundamental Rights is legally binding and the European Union will accede to the European Convention on Human Rights. With these key instruments and the creation of a new "Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship" portfolio within the Commission, all the components for developing an ambitious EU fundamental rights policy are now in place.

What are the main problems identified?

As the EU Charter of fundamental rights is now legally binding, there is a need to present a strategy and concrete initiatives to enforce the Charter in order to render its rights as effective as possible for the benefit of all people living in the EU.

There is a need to explain the importance of ensuring the respect of fundamental rights within the EU and the role of the Commission in the area of fundamental rights. This is necessary in particular for the information of the public at large, for promoting mutual confidence between member States and for the credibility of the human rights external policy.

#### **B. Objectives of EU initiative**

What are the main policy objectives?

The Communication will underline the importance to assess the impact on fundamental rights of new legislative proposals and explain how the Commission will watch over the legislative process to ensure that EU law is in line with the Charter.

The communication will also present how the Commission will deal with cases of allegations of violation of fundamental rights by Member States (zero tolerance when they implement EU law).

The Communication will aim to explain to the general public the role of the Commission in the area of fundamental rights and its relationships with national mechanisms, the European Agency of fundamental Rights, the Council of Europe, civil societies, etc. The Annual Report on the enforcement of the Charter will present regularly the progress achieved in the implementation of this new policy.

Do the objectives imply developing EU policy in new areas or in areas of strategic importance?

No. Fundamental rights concern all EU policies and this is not a new policy area.

### **C. Options**

Not relevant (the communication is intended to explain the action of the Commission in relation to fundamental rights)

### **D. Initial assessment of impacts**

The Communication will contribute to ensure the effective respect of fundamental rights by EU institutions and Member States when they implement EU law. It will provide better explanation and information to the citizen on the role of the Commission in the area of fundamental rights.

### **E. Planning of further impact assessment work**

The Communication will be of a general and explanatory nature: it will explain the place of the Fundamental Rights in the EU system and the role of the Commission in this area. The Communication will not launch new specific measures requiring impact assessment.