



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

MEMO

Brussels, 30 May 2013

May infringements package: main decisions

Reasoned opinions

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Gender equality: Commission continues legal action against AUSTRIA on rights of the self employed

Today, the Commission decided to send a reasoned opinion to Austria due to its failure to fully transpose the Directive on equality between men and women in self-employed activity. The transposition deadline for this Directive expired on 5 August 2012 and a letter of formal notice was sent to Austria in September 2012. Until now, Austria has still only partially transposed the directive into national law. It has notified a number of transposing measures, but further measures are still missing both at federal and at regional level.

The Directive on self-employed workers and assisting spouses (2010/41/EU) guarantees social protection rights for millions of women in the labour market, strengthening female entrepreneurship. Under the rules, female self-employed workers and assisting spouses or life partners of self-employed workers are granted a maternity allowance and a leave of at least 14 weeks, should they choose to take it. At present only one in three entrepreneurs is a woman. In the absence of a satisfactory response within two months, the Commission can refer Austria to the Court of Justice of the EU.

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