



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Cabinet of Vice-President Viviane Reding,
Commissioner for Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship

Head of Cabinet

Brussels, 20 April 2010
D(2010)618 – A(2010)711

Dear Ms Nowicka,

On behalf of Vice-President Viviane Reding I would like to thank you for your letter on the important issues of fundamental rights and gender equality, and women's sexual and reproductive health rights. As you know, she is firmly committed to making fundamental rights the core of our activities and to ensuring compliance with the Charter of Fundamental Rights.

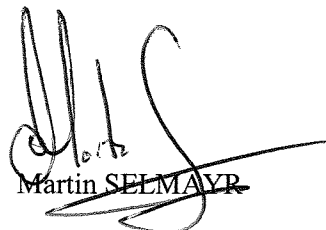
As regards gender equality, you are also no doubt aware that on 5 March Vice-President Reding and President Barroso presented a communication entitled 'A strengthened commitment to equality between women and men: A Women's Charter'. The Charter voices the commitment of the Commission as a whole and of Vice-President Reding in particular to equality between women and men.

It identifies five priority areas, namely: equal economic independence; equal pay for equal work and work of equal value; equality in decision-making; dignity, integrity and an end to gender-based violence; and gender equality beyond the Union. Under the priority related to dignity, integrity, and an end to gender-based violence, the Charter underlines the importance of eliminating gender inequalities in access to healthcare and in health outcomes.

The Women's Charter will be followed up by a new strategy for equality between women and men for the 2010-15 period, putting forward concrete actions. However, I would draw your attention to the fact that the specific area of sexual and reproductive health rights falls within the competence of the Member States.

Should you wish to arrange a meeting with my services, I recommend that you contact with Ms Daniela Bankier, Head of the Unit for Equality between women and men (by email to daniela.bankier@ec.europa.eu or by phone at +32 2 29 81708).

Yours sincerely,



Martin SELMAYR

Ms Wanda Nowicka
ASTRA Coordinator
ul. Nowolipie 13/15
00/150 Warsaw
Poland