




# ACTIVITY REPORT

## AEDH

### 2012-2013

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The European Association for the defense of Human Rights (AEDH) gathers together leagues and associations defending Human Rights in European Union countries. It is a partner of the FIDH, the International Federation for Human Rights. Within a Europe where important choices concern more than 500 million people, we try to influence the institutions by taking position and promoting Human Rights.

Through its constitutive charter and statutes, the AEDH's goal is the defence and promotion of Human Rights in the European Union.

The AEDH supports any initiative for the training, promotion and defence of such rights, recognised for their universality, indivisibility and effectiveness.

It advocates:

- A democratic Europe in which citizens have real power
- A Europe grounded on the respect of the freedoms of each and every person
- A Europe which ensures economic, social and cultural rights
- A Europe respectful of the environment and engaged in sustainable development
- A Europe without discrimination
- A Europe that is open to the world and upholds its international responsibilities

The AEDH calls for the existence and the recognition of a real citizen counter-power. We maintain our commitment in favour of a civic movement in Europe.

Human Rights do not belong only to the field of states; citizens are actors and guarantors of them. The rights are rights built by and for the citizens.

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## Editorial

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An activity report is the occasion to review the past year and to make relive the efforts of the ones and the others, the advances and encountered challenges. An activity report is essentially the occasion to thank those who contributed to it; volunteers and employees, members of the executive board, members of the working groups: it is thanks to them that an association like ours breathes and acts.

An activity report is also the occasion to take into account the acquis in order to better address new issues. The past year had been marked by a consolidation of our network and its animation by the new team of the Bureau elected during our General Assembly in Brno. It would be unfair to pick one or another event: they all form an indivisible whole. This report provides what has been the essence of the AEDH: its implication for Human Rights in the European Union.

## Thematics works

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- **Asylum and immigration**

### ASYLUM

In its commitment to the **right to asylum**, AEDH focused its efforts from May 2012 to April 2013 on the critical monitoring of the adoption of a Common European Asylum System (CEAS).

**AEDH regularly informed its members** of institutional progress and provided them with key tools for facilitating their involvement in the decision-making process at a national level. It also published detailed analyses of different aspects of the asylum package, in particular the "procedures" directive, to raise public awareness of the threats to fundamental rights.

AEDH also sought to maintain regular dialogue with MEPs to put forth its key demands. It published **an open letter to parliament members, "Members of the European Parliament, do not sell asylum seekers' rights cheaply!"** In the letter, AEDH urges MEPs to commit to the creation of an ambitious European and common asylum system, calling on them to support individual, fair, and complete examination of each asylum application and to reject all forms of detention for asylum seekers.

Negotiations on the asylum package within the European institutions ended in March 2013. AEDH, together with its members, will continue to keep a critical eye on the transposition of the asylum package in the different Member States.

**AEDH** took the opportunity to become **a member of the Consultative Forum of the European Asylum Support Office (EASO)** in Malta, even though EASO debates with civil society tend to be limited to technical issues. AEDH participated in the Forum's annual plenary meeting in November 2012. It also contributed to EASO consultations for its 2014 work programme.

### MIGRATION

One of the AEDH's priorities for the 2012-2013 period in terms of migrant rights was the right to family life.

Following the AEDH's response to the European Commission's public consultation on the directive governing family reunification, AEDH continued to pursue its commitment to defending the right to family life for migrants. AEDH noted that several Member States did not apply the minimum standards set forth in the directive. Along with a large coalition of European and national NGOs, it published a declaration calling upon Member States to implement the directive on family reunification, and urging the Commission to establish infraction proceedings for non-compliance with the directive.

The European Commission is now contemplating the drafting of interpretative guidelines for the directive and plans to involve civil society at a second stage. The NGO platform for asylum and immigration, of which AEDH is a member, has decided to be proactive and provide key elements to the Commission. AEDH will monitor the progress of the directive's implementation and the European Commission's actions, and involve its members in awareness-building and advocacy activities.

AEDH is also working on **readmission agreements** that the European Commission wishes to conclude with several countries. It is monitoring legislative changes regarding these agreements by keeping its members informed and involving them in its analyses and commitment to migrant rights.

AEDH continues to monitor European legislation on labour migration. **This political and legal monitoring** follows on AEDH's analyses of the “single permit”, “seasonal workers”, and “intra-corporate transfers” directives as well as its advocacy regarding the “seasonal workers” directive.

- **Protection of personal data**

AEDH keeps its members constantly apprised of key changes in the area of personal data protection, provides analyses, and urges public authorities and MEPs to defend the right to privacy and personal data protection.

One of the major issues in the 2012-2013 period was the **reform of the 1995 directive**, the general framework for personal data protection in the European Union. In January 2012, the European Commission proposed a general regulation on data protection, with an accompanying directive on the handling of personal data by public authorities in the area of police and legal cooperation in criminal matters.

Since then, AEDH has enjoined MEPs to guarantee a high level of protection for personal data in the European Union. In particular, AEDH seeks to ensure that the directive on the handling of data by justice and police authorities should provide the same level of protection for personal data as the general framework does.

It was essential for European citizens to understand the stakes involved in the use of their personal data so that their rights could be applied effectively. AEDH thus gave detailed information to its member organizations and individual members on the implications of the proposed reform, legal developments, and the positions taken by key stakeholders in the institutions and civil society.

In its work for the protection of personal data, AEDH also closely follows **proposed laws on border surveillance** such as the Eurosur regulation as well as the intelligent borders package (registered traveller programme, entry/exit system). AEDH analyses the risks of infringing upon fundamental rights, and calls for attention from the public and political decision-makers (see Asylum and Immigration).

Since 2011, AEDH has been a **member with observer status of the Council of Europe's Bureau of the Consultative Committee tasked with the modernisation of Convention 108**. While AEDH is not a voting member, it was able to communicate its proposed modifications. It proposed amendments that would reinforce the protection of privacy and personal data. Whether it involved the definition of sensitive data, consent for data collection, opening membership to international organizations, or mandatory protection for transfers to third countries, AEDH sought to persuade, even though some of its proposals went “too far” for the Bureau's members.

The new version of the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (ETS No. 108) has now been finalised. It must be adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. The T-PD Bureau must now review the explanatory report (which will be closely followed by AEDH, as many of its proposals were sent back to the said report) and establish evaluation and monitoring mechanisms with an ad hoc committee that will hold an annual meeting to which AEDH will be invited.

#### EUROPEAN PROJECT: INSTITUTIONAL DATA COLLECTION

The "Data Collection, Informing Citizens - Passport for the protection of personal data" project seeks to fill the gap in the knowledge citizens have of the extent of the institutional data collection to which they are subjected,

particularly in the files compiled by the police and the legal, educational, and health systems.

The project aims to develop a campaign to inform and challenge citizens to think about the use of their personal data, inform them of their rights over their data, and tell them how to defend those rights legally. The project also seeks to call the attention of MEPs to the (potential) infringement of fundamental rights.

Institutional Data Collection is a joint project of AEDH and its members, the Ligue des Droits de l'Homme in France (project coordinator), and ALOS – Luxembourg League for Human Rights, as well as partners Hungarian Civil Liberties Union, Humanistische Union in Germany, and the Magistrats européens pour la démocratie et les libertés (MEDEL) European network.

- **Minorities and discrimination**

In the fight against discrimination and for the defence of minority rights, AEDH **ensures political and legal monitoring** of changes at the European and Member State levels. To this end, AEDH continuously monitors the European Parliament committees FEMM (women's rights) and EMPL (employment). To AEDH's great disappointment, advances on the anti-discrimination directive remained blocked in 2012/2013. Certain Member States claim it would be better to abandon this project, which does not leave much hope that it will come to fruition.

**AEDH keeps citizens and its members informed of key changes and supports them in their efforts to reach out to citizens and intervene on their behalf.** AEDH thus helped its Andalusian member, the APDHA, in its fight to grant everyone in Spain access to healthcare (see the association's website at <http://www.aedh.eu/Declaration-conjointe-sur-l-acces.html>).

Since 2011, AEDH has focused primarily on the fight against the attacks on the fundamental rights of the Roma people. This is the minority facing the most discrimination in Europe and the situation has not improved at all over the last few years.

### **Documentation and advocacy**

In 2012, the AEDH published a **report entitled, "The Roma in 21<sup>st</sup> century Europe: violence, exclusion, vulnerability"**. This report notes the discrimination against the Roma in Member States of the European Union and gives recommendations for the European Union and its Member States. It indicates that the Roma are victims of violence committed by both their fellow citizens and Member States. The report calls on the European Commission to survey more strictly the commitments made by Member States and demands that the Commission focus not only on the economic and social rights of the Roma, but also commit to ensuring all rights are enforced.

This work is the basis of AEDH's advocacy and appeal work. In this context, the AEDH organised a public debate in the European Parliament in December 2012, bringing together actors from the European Commission, Parliament, and the Agency for Fundamental Rights and Civil Society.

The growing recognition of AEDH's work for the Roma is evident in that AEDH is called upon more and more frequently by key players in the field, and also because there is growing interest in the topic in the press, especially following the publication of the report, but also after the publication of the survey of the evacuation of the Roma in France by Philippe Goossens, member of the executive bureau in charge of this issue.

An updated report is forecasted for 2013.

*The report "Roma in 21st Century Europe: Violence, Exclusion, Vulnerability" is a good example of AEDH's strength: helping its members collect data on the state of fundamental rights, discussing with members to establish a common political vision, disseminating this data and making their common position heard at the European level.*

*This report would not have been possible without AEDH's members' help in documentation – member organisations contributed to the crucial work of disseminating the report by organising press conferences in their countries and submitting the report to public authorities and players in civil society in their countries.*

## **INSEROM**

### **“Pathway to integration: training Roma for the knowledge of their rights in Europe”**

The INSEROM project aims to develop key civic skills for the Roma who face discrimination so that they are able to both defend and exercise their fundamental rights. INSEROM is a two-year joint project between the AEDH and its member organisations, the APDHA in Andalusia, the Czech Helsinki Committee, BEMIS in Scotland and the LDH France, in charge of coordination.

The INSEROM project goes hand in hand with the AEDH's advocacy work. If, on the one hand, it is vital to fight for changes in European policies and mentalities toward the Roma, it is also necessary to help the Roma develop the skills they need to defend their own rights.

- **Citizenship and democracy**

AEDH's commitment to the values of citizenship and democracy in 2012 and at the start of 2013 were determined by its contribution to the European Year of Citizens. Once this year was declared by the European Union, it was joined by an alliance from civil society, the European Year of Citizens Alliance.

AEDH has been committed to the development of this alliance since the start of 2012. It has contributed to the drafting of a manifesto from civil society with its own vision of citizenship, and to the development of the alliance at the European and national levels. In April 2013, the alliance was made up of more than 60 European networks and organisations, 17 national alliances, and other nascent alliances.

The AEDH successfully met its goal of mobilising its members for citizenship and three of its members were able to initiate national alliances: these were in Portugal, Luxemburg and Greece.

The alliance is structured around three themes: active and participative citizenship, economic and social citizenship and inclusive citizenship. At the end of 2013, the alliance will submit recommendations on each theme to European institutions, Member States, civil society and citizens.

The AEDH co-sponsors work on inclusive citizenship and thus pursues its commitment to residence-based citizenship.

Mobilisation for the exercise of European citizenship is also the objective of the AEDH for 2013 and 2014. As such, before its General Assembly, it will organise a seminar with its partners in order to determine key demands for a Europe founded on Human Rights. These demands will be submitted to the various political parties so that they may be included in their political programmes.



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AEDH also contributed to the public consultation of the European Commission on European Citizenship in October 2012. Even though the consultation targeted individuals, it was an opportunity for AEDH to restate its demands for social citizenship based on residence.

As with all its main topics, AEDH also ensures political and legal monitoring of citizenship and democracy. Because of the economic crisis, 2012 and 2013 were marked by attacks on the values of citizenship and democracy in several Member States, above all in Hungary.

AEDH supports its members by relaying information about a country to the European level, by having spokespeople for its members at European institutions and also by supporting its members in their interventions in different Member States. For example, AEDH participated in a public conference in October 2012 on the state of democracy in Bulgaria and in an intervention in France on residence-based European citizenship.

- **Economic and social rights**

One source of pride for AEDH's work on economic and social rights was the seminar on economic and social rights in Barcelona in December 2012. This seminar was jointly organised by AEDH and its Portuguese, Greek and Spanish members.

Together, these organisations reported on the state of economic and social rights violations in Southern European countries in the context of the economic crisis. The organisations noticed that the economic crisis not only affected economic and social rights, but also political and civil rights of the residents of southern European countries.

Southern member organisations decided to work more closely on this subject and to write a joint declaration on human rights violations for political decision-makers and the public at large. The joint declaration will be presented during AEDH's seminar in Tallinn.

This process shows the strength of AEDH's work: it gives its member organisations power by putting them in contact with each other and making their voices heard at the European level.

In its fight for the respect of economic and social rights in 2012, AEDH also collaborates with collective initiatives at the European level. For instance, AEDH supported calls for mobilisation initiated by the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) in a large number of countries in November 2012. AEDH also worked with Firenze 10+10, a major gathering of NGOs, social movements, trade unions and citizens to debate the measures necessary for a democratic and social Europe in contrast to austerity policies.

AEDH also prepared a questionnaire on the state of economic and social rights addressed to its member organisations. The responses gave a clearer view of the state of economic and social rights in Europe and helped develop a common position that AEDH will represent at the European level

## AEDH Working Methods

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- **Political and legal monitoring**

In order to be able to inform its Members about European news and to acquire the expertise necessary for analyses and position papers, another important element of the work of the AEDH is the political and legal monitoring.

The AEDH constantly follows the input into the legislative process of the European Commission, the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament. In particular, the AEDH attends or follows the parliamentary committees dealing with Human rights within the European Union.

In particular, the AEDH follows the “Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs” Committee (LIBE) and the “Employment and Social Affairs” Committee (EMPL), and to a lesser extent the “Legal Affairs” (JURI), the “Women’s Rights and Gender Equality” (FEMM), the “Development” (DEVE), the “Human Rights” (DROI) and the “Culture and Education” (CULT) Committees.

The AEDH also develops its expertise and network by participating in public hearings of committees relevant for its work and by participating in conferences organised by political groups. These events are also an opportunity for the AEDH to make its voice heard.

Conferences and discussions organised by NGOs in Brussels are also significant opportunities for the AEDH to increase its expertise and exchanges.

- **Raising awareness**

An important pillar of the work of the AEDH is to inform its Members and citizens about the EU policies and legislative changes affecting Human rights in Europe, and to give information about specific developments in EU Member States by relaying information from its Member Leagues.

In order to achieve this goal, the AEDH disseminates to its network *Flashnews* and *MemberNews*. Flashnews give information about legislative developments, the implementation of the European legislation in Member States, and analyses of its partners at the European level.

Member News give information about the Member leagues’ work, actions and activities. They are important for identifying common concerns, to share best practices and in order to develop common positions.

The awareness work of the AEDH is multiplied by its Member leagues, which relay these information at the regional and national level and include an increased expertise in their daily work.

The fact that the Executive Board of the AEDH is nationally based allows the Association to regularly organise public lectures on its main intervention themes in various Member States.

The same applies to joint events of the AEDH and its Member Leagues. During the period 2012-2013, the AEDH moved to France, Italy, Austria, Estonia, Cyprus and Spain to explore the interaction between the European and the national level, to inform on the European issues and to strengthen the AEDH on-site expertise.

- **Dialogue with the EU institutions and advocacy work**

The AEDH aims to work with European policymakers before their positions are taken, and especially with the European Parliament.

Based on its analysis of draft legislation or transposed European legislation, the AEDH communicates its position and recommendations to the Members of the European Parliament– through direct interaction with MEPs, assistants and policy advisors during conferences and committee meetings, and through press releases and open letters.

The AEDH contributions to legislative developments in these areas have received an increasing recognition. Especially in the field of asylum and protection of personal data, the opinion of the AEDH was explicitly requested by MEPs.

This advocacy and dialogue work is the common action the AEDH and its Member leagues– the members can benefit from the locally-based MEPs for dialogue and discussion.

On the initiative of MEP Marie-Christine Vergiat, an informal group supporting the AEDH developed among the MEPs called "Friends of the AEDH." This group is a place for expertise exchange of and political debates. In 2012, the AEDH organised within the group of the Friends of the AEDH, in collaboration with Marie-Christine Vergiat, a public lecture on the topic of Human rights abuses of Roma people in Europe.

The AEDH is also regularly looking for new contacts with the European Commission, in particular with key people of the DG Home Affairs and DG Employment and Social Affairs to discuss political risks and breaches or violations of fundamental rights. About this, it is worth mentioning the presentation of the document on violence against Roma in the cabinet of Commissioner Viviane Reding.

The AEDH is also a member of the Active European Citizenship Group initiated by the DG Communication. This group holds regular meetings to discuss developments in the European Union and the involvement of citizens.

In October 2012, the AEDH responded to a public consultation of the European Commission on European citizenship.

Since 2007, the AEDH is also a member of the Civil Society Liaison Group of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC).

The Liaison Group is a place for dialogue and cooperation between the EESC and representatives of organizations and civil society networks. The AEDH represents the field of Human rights.

In 2012, the theme of the Group was the dialogue and participation with the civil society at the European level. The 2013 Alliance for the European Year of Citizens has its roots in the Liaison Group.

The AEDH contributes with its expertise to the work of the **European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) as a member of the Fundamental Rights Platform**. The platform brings together over 300 civil society organisations and is a place for the exchange of information and expertise. Civil society organisations are regularly invited to respond to public consultations of the Agency. The FRA was particularly interested in the AEDH report on Human rights abuses of Roma people. The AEDH participated in the meeting of the platform on Human rights organised by the FRA in Vienna from 24 to 26 April 2013.

The AEDH also made its voice heard at the European asylum support office.

- **Partnerships with civil society actors**

The voice of the AEDH is strengthened by its joint work with organisations with which it shares values and positions.

The AEDH naturally interacts with the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH). These relationships have been tightened at a meeting with the two delegations in Paris in November.

Since June 2012, the AEDH is a full member of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN). As a member, the AEDH participates in the EMHRN "justice", "asylum" and "freedom of association" working groups.

The AEDH and the EMHRN take joint positions – in particular on asylum and immigration. Thus, the two organisations have published, together with other partners, a joint statement on the November 2012 mobility agreement between the EU and Tunisia.

The AEDH is also a member of the Board of the European Civic Forum (ECF). The ECF plays a major role in preparing the 2013 European Year of Citizens, in which the AEDH is also heavily involved.

The informal network Human Rights and Democracy Network (HRDN) – which AEDH is a member of – gathers NGOs working for the defence and promotion of Human rights, in particular in relations with the EU and third countries. This is a helpful collaboration regarding the links between EU policies having an impact on Human rights in Europe and the political influence of the EU on third countries.

The AEDH is also a member of the NGO Platform on asylum and immigration policies of the European Union. Regular meetings between the NGOs working on these topics allow participants to share knowledge and expertise and develop common approaches. In June 2012, the AEDH is particularly committed to a joint statement of the NGO Platform on asylum and immigration on the draft Regulation establishing Eurosur.

In addition to these affiliations, the AEDH works closely with several organisations. In particular, it has a special relationship with Migreurop, PICUM and ATD Quart Monde.

To strengthen personal ties, the AEDH invited to a friendly meal organisations working on or in Belgium: the FIDH and its Brussels office, the EMHRN and its Brussels office and the Belgian Dutch and French leagues.

## AEDH Communication

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- *The Website*

The AEDH website is designed to be a portal of information on human rights in Europe for citizens, organisations and institutions alike. Readers will find the most important European laws pertaining to the AEDH's areas of work, as well as information on the activities undertaken and positions adopted by the AEDH and by its members and partners at regional, national and European levels.

In April 2013 the site received an average of 504 visits per day, which represents a 25% increase in traffic from early 2012 (400 visits per day).

- *The newsletter*

The AEDH newsletter reports the main events from the week related to human rights in Europe, including events that took place at a European level and those that occurred within Member States. It provides an overview of European legislative news, along with updates on the AEDH's activities and positions. It also contains a chronological column on legal precedents from the week.

The newsletter is published in English and French and distributed to about 700 people, including members, civil society contacts and private individuals. Many of our members and partners also redistribute the newsletter to their contacts, which greatly increases its actual circulation.

- *Press release*

The AEDH regularly takes a stand at the European level in order to inform European citizens and to call out the political decision-makers when there is an infringement or a risk of infringement of fundamental rights. By its **press releases**, the AEDH tries to encourage citizens to seize the opportunity to debate on big European issues and to get involved in the democratic life of the EU.

The AEDH often releases joint statements with its members' organisations to draw the attention on violations of Fundamental Rights occurring in a member state.

All press releases are widely disseminated to European citizens thanks to the publication in different languages: systematically in English and in French and often also in Italian, German or Spanish

In the year from May 2012 to April 2013 the AEDH published **14 press releases**, including two statements prepared with member organisations and three issued jointly with European networks and organisations.

The AEDH also produces **position papers and open letters** to question public authorities and parliamentarians more directly. These publications typically target national and European players. Between May 2012 and April 2013 the AEDH released a total of four position papers: two joint statements and two open letters.

- *AEDH Analyses*

The AEDH also publishes in-depth analyses on both the human rights situation in Europe and changes to European laws that impact fundamental rights.

In the period from May 2012 to April 2013 the AEDH published two analytical notes on the implementation of a common European asylum system and a report entitled *Roma people in Europe in the 21st century: violence, exclusion, insecurity*.



- *The AEDH in the News*

From May 2012 to April 2013 the AEDH was cited in at least 26 press, journal, radio and television reports in national and international media.

The AEDH has been especially visible for its commitment to defending the fundamental rights of Roma in Europe, work that has been spearheaded by Philippe Goossens, a member of the AEDH executive board. Both the report *Roma people in Europe in the 21st century: violence, exclusion, insecurity* and the public seminar the AEDH organised in the Czech Republic were widely covered by the media.

This figure reflects growing recognition for the AEDH's work as well as the association's increased visibility as an authority on human rights issues in Europe.

The AEDH is also regularly called on to provide expert input on human rights issues for articles in specialised press, especially on the right to asylum and border surveillance issues.

## Structure of the AEDH

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- *AEDH Members*

The AEDH's strength comes from the knowledge and experience of its members, regional and national human rights organisations. Its expanding network reinforces its expertise and the legitimacy of its actions in the eyes of the European institutions. Affiliation with the AEDH benefits members by enhancing their understanding of European politics, facilitating the exchange of best practices and supporting joint work and a united front on a European level.

As of April 2013 the AEDH has **29 member organisations in 21 European countries**, including three European networks that are partner members and one observer member.

The AEDH also boasts a growing number of individual members that embody its commitment to promoting a European civic movement for human rights. As of April 2013 the AEDH is supported by **150 individual members**.

The fees paid by member organisations and individuals constitute an important source of capital that enables the AEDH to operate on a daily basis and commit to building a Europe of human rights. For information on becoming a member of the AEDH please go to <http://www.aedh.eu/-Become-a-member-.html>

### Full Members as of April 2013

#### **GERMANY**

Internationale Liga für Menschenrechte

#### **AUSTRIA**

Österreichische Liga für Menschenrechte

#### **BELGIUM**

Ligue des droits de l'Homme

Liga voor Mensenrechten

#### **BULGARIA**

European Association for the Defense of Human Rights - Bulgaria

#### **CYPRUS**

KISA – Action for Equality, Support, Antiracism

#### **SPAIN**

Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos de Andalucía (APDHA)

Institut de Drets Humans de Catalunya (IDHC)

#### **ESTONIA**

Legal Information Centre for Human Rights

#### **FINLAND**

Ihmisoikeuslitto – Finnish League for Human Rights

#### **FRANCE**

Ligue française pour la défense des droits de l'Homme et du citoyen

**GREECE**

Ligue hellénique pour les droits de l'Homme

**ITALY**

Lega Italiana per i diritti dell'Uomo  
Unione Forense per la Tutela dei Diritti dell'Uomo

**LATVIA**

Latvian Human Rights Committee

**LITHUANIA**

Lithuanian Human Rights Association  
Lithuanian Human Rights League

**LUXEMBOURG**

Action Luxembourg Ouvert et Solidaire – Ligue des droits de l'Homme (ALOS-LDH)

**MALTA**

Malta Association of Human Rights

**NETHERLANDS**

Liga voor de Rechten van de Mens

**POLAND**

Otwarta Rzeczpospolita – Open Republic

**PORTUGAL**

Liga Portuguesa dos Direitos Humanos - Civitas

**CZECH REPUBLIC**

Czech Helsinki Committee

**SCOTLAND**

Black and Ethnic Minorities Infrastructure in Scotland – BEMIS

**SWITZERLAND**

Ligue suisse des droits de l'Homme

**Observer Member****HUNGARY**

Hungarian Helsinki Committee (HHC)

**Partner Members**

EDRI

Génération 112

Solidar



- *The executive board*

The executive board is responsible for implementing the AEDH's general policy, which is determined by the General Assembly.

The board is elected by the General Assembly for a two-year term.

The following members were elected to the executive board at the AEDH General Assembly in April 2012:

Serge Kollwelter, Chair – ALOS-LDH

Catherine Teule, vice-chair – LDH France

Philippos Mittleton, vice-chair – ligue hellénique

Knut Albrecht, secretary-general – ligue allemande

Rafael Lara, secretary-general – APDHA

David Busuttil, Treasurer – association malte

Maricia Bagnato Belfiore, member – LIDU

Tanveer Parnez, member – BEMIS

Maryse Artiguelong, member – LDH France

Angela Ciudad Carillo – APDHA

Aleksejs Dimitrov, Lithuanian Human Rights

Manuel Malheiros, Liga Civitas Portugal

Joséphine d'Angelo, representative of the individual members, Italy

Philippe Goossens, representative of the individual members, Belgium

- *Honorary Chairmen*

Pierre Barge, Honorary Chairman – LDH France

Dan van Raemdonck, Honorary Chairmen – LDH Belgique

- *Employees*

Yvonne Ebner, coordinator

Elodie Aïssi, finance and administration

Amanda Rasolofotsara, personal data/Roma project leader

Nicolas Jouët, 2013 European Year of Citizens Alliance project leader

- *Interns and Volunteers*

The AEDH regularly takes on three interns to work at its headquarters. They provide invaluable support for the AEDH's daily work. The AEDH would like to thank Erell Chardon, Amélie Beaujard, Delphie Lull, Naomie Marieanneau, Nicolas Jouët, Christina Gruber, Morgane Chiocchia, Marion Galissard and Lenaig Le Fouillé for their contributions in 2012 and 2013.

The AEDH is first and foremost an association for citizens and for active citizenship. It relies primarily on voluntary activism for the majority of its operations. In addition to executive board members, the AEDH depends on the support of numerous volunteers for many tasks, including translating publications, interpreting at events, legal and accounting activities and even contributing to specific projects and actions.

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## Financial means of the AEDH

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- European Commission

In 2012 the AEDH was co-financed by an operating grant awarded under the European Union's Fundamental Rights and Citizenship programme.

For 2013 the AEDH has received an operating grant under the European Union's Europe for Citizens programme.

In 2012 the AEDH also received positive responses for two European projects under the auspices of the LDH France. The Inserom project, under the European Union's Grundtvig programme, seeks to educate the public on the rights of Roma in the European Union. This initiative began in January 2013 and is scheduled to run for two years. The Fichage institutionnel project, under the European Union's Fundamental Rights and Citizenship programme, aims to inform citizens about the increasing number of records police and judicial authorities are keeping on citizens and their rights pertaining thereto. This project also began in January 2013 and is expected to run for 18 months.

- Member Fees and Donations

The fees paid by member organisations and individuals enable the AEDH to operate on a daily basis and commit to building a Europe of human rights. These fees are not the AEDH's main financial resource, but they constitute a significant source of capital. Along with donations, these fees reflect the very essence of the AEDH's objective: fostering a European citizen movement for human rights.

Since the end of 2012 the AEDH has focused more on developing partnerships with foundations to more effectively promote recognition of the fundamental rights of all European Union residents and the universal, indivisible and effective nature of these rights. To this end, the AEDH presented its awareness and advocacy campaigns on the rights of Roma in Europe to the Open Society Foundations and the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust. It looks forward to continuing to build partnerships with foundations.