

**Question for written answer E-000545/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Sir Graham Watson (ALDE)

Subject: Legal recognition in documents for those who do not associate with a particular gender

The prohibition of discrimination based on sexual orientation constitutes an important principle enshrined in Article 21 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, and discrimination based on sexual orientation in the area of employment is explicitly prohibited through Council Directive 2000/78/EC.

The resolution of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the European Communities meeting within the Council of 23 June 1981 on the design of Community passports¹ includes the requirement to specify the sex of the document holder. In addition, I note that the International Civil Aviation Organisation's Document 9303 contains X (unspecified) as one of three permitted characters under the mandatory sex element for machine-readable travel documents. I also note that citizens of Australia and New Zealand are already able to obtain a non-gender-specific ('X') passport.

In light of this, what guidance, if any, has the Commission given to encourage Member States to allow their citizens to use a non-gender specific identifier on passports?

¹ OJ C 241, 19.9.1981, p. 1.