

25 YEARS OF RIGHTS: REFLECTING ON THE IMPACT OF THE CHARTER

**Conference to mark the 25th anniversary of the proclamation
of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union**

Brussels, 10-11 December 2025

#EUCharter25

Wednesday 10 December - International Human Rights Day

From 9:00	<p>Arrival and registration of participants</p> <p>Event moderated by Friso Roscam Abbing, Head of Brussels Liaison Office, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights</p>
09:30	<p>Opening remarks</p> <p>Director-General for Justice and Consumers, Ana Gallego</p>
09:45-10:15	<p>Scene setter – How the Charter of Fundamental Rights shapes EU law</p> <p>Michal Bobek, Judge of the Supreme Administrative Court of Czechia, former Advocate General at the Court of Justice of the European Union</p>
10:15-10:30	<p>The Charter today - Takeaways from the third annual CharterXchange and FRA's recent work on the Charter</p> <p>Interview with Sirpa Rautio, Director, European Union Agency of Fundamental Rights</p>
10:30-11:00	Coffee break
11:00-12:00	<p>Panel 1: The Charter of Fundamental Rights and the European Convention of Human Rights – two anniversaries, two complementary protection systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arnfinn Bårdsen, Vice-President of the European Court of Human Rights• Niels Fenger, Judge of the Court of Justice of the European Union• Exchange moderated by Inge Govaere, Professor of EU Law & Director of G.E.L.I., Ghent University, and Director of the European Legal Studies Department at the College of Europe• Questions from the audience
12:00-12:15	Art performance by Lisette Ma Neza
12:15-13:00	<p>Panel 2: The added value of the Charter – the Charter's role alongside international and regional human rights instruments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Christina Meinecke, Regional Representative for Europe Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)• Andriy Zayats, Head of the Liaison Office of the Council of Europe to the European Union• Exchange moderated by Kirsten Roberts Lyer, Chair of the Human Rights Program at the Central European University, Member of the FRA Scientific Committee• Questions from the audience
13:00-14:00	Lunch

14:00-15:30 **Marketplace of connections - Civil society best practice initiatives funded by the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme**

Participants will join thematic discussions at three different tables (chosen at registration), where CERV beneficiaries present best practices from their projects. The selected projects cover the following topics:

- Capacity building and awareness raising on the Charter
- Empowering the civic space
- Strategic litigation
- Combating hate speech and hate crime
- Whistleblower protection
- Promoting and protecting children's rights
- Violence against women
- LGBTIQ equality
- Anti-racism and non-discrimination
- Citizens' engagement and participation

15:30-16:00 **Coffee break**

16:00-17:00 **Panel 3: Empowering individuals - 25 years of equality and rights**

- **Colm O'Cinneide**, Professor of Human Rights Law at the University College of London
- **Aleksandra Dulkiewicz**, Mayor of the City of Gdansk
- **Beate Rudolf**, Director, National Human Rights Institution of Germany (online)
- Exchange moderated by **Delia Ferri**, Professor of Law, Maynooth University, Member of FRA Scientific Committee
- Questions from the audience

17:00-17:15 **Civil society perspective on applying the Charter**

Interview with **Kersty McCourt**, Senior Advocacy Advisor at Liberties (Civil Liberties Union for Europe)

From 17:15 **Cocktail and tapas with cultural performance by Lisette Ma Neza**

Thursday 11 December

9:00

Arrival and welcome coffee

Event moderated by **Friso Roscam Abbing**, Head of Brussels Liaison Office, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights

09:30-10:30

Panel 4: National actors as Charter agents - Challenges and highlights

- National authorities as guarantors of fundamental rights, **Adam Bodnar**, Senator of the Republic of Poland (online)
- Ensuring the application of the Charter in national courts, **Goran Selanec**, Judge of the Croatian Constitutional Court
- The role of national parliaments in ensuring the implementation of the Charter, *Speaker to be confirmed*
- Exchange moderated by **Jonas Christoffersen**, attorney, former Director of the Danish Institute of Human Rights
- Questions from the audience

10:30-11:00

Coffee break

11:00-12:00

Panel 5: The policy framework - Insights from the Mid-term review of the Charter strategy

- Presentation of the mid-term review outcomes, **Ana Gallego**, Director-General for Justice and Consumers
- Key messages from the perspective of justice professionals, **Ingrid Derveaux**, Secretary-General of European Judicial Training Network (EJTN)
- Key messages from the perspective of NHRIs, **Debbie Kohner**, Secretary-General of European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI)
- Exchange moderated by **Ana Gallego**, Director-General for Justice and Consumers
- Questions from the audience

12:00-13:00

Panel 6: Anticipating the next 25 years

- **Javier Zarzalejos**, Chair, LIBE Committee
- **Teresa Anjinho**, European Ombudsman
- **Norma Foley**, Minister for Children, Disability and Equality of Ireland
- **Marilena Raouna**, Deputy Minister for European Affairs of Cyprus (online)
- Exchange moderated by **Gabriel N. Toggenburg**, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
- Questions from the audience

13:00-13:15

Concluding reflections

Michael McGrath, Commissioner for Democracy, Justice, the Rule of Law and Consumer Protection