



Press Release

16 May 2014
For immediate release

Rainbow Rose participating to the 2nd European IDAHO forum in Malta

Rainbow Rose took part to the [2nd European IDAHO](#) (International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia taking place on May 17th) forum in Malta, on May 13th and 14th, co-organized by Maltese and Swedish Governments.

It was an excellent opportunity for our 2 board-members present there to meet other organizations working on LGBT rights around Europe and exchange on important issues during workshops and debates. It was possible to meet some LGBT Labour activists as well.

A significant number of speakers came from the PES family, such as **Michael Cashman** (MEP), **Kathleen Lynch** (Irish Minister of State, Department of Health and Department of Justice, Equality & Defence with responsibility for Disability, Older People, Equality & Mental Health) and **Jet Bussemaker** (Dutch Minister for Education, Culture and Science).

Hosting the event in Malta, just one month after the country adopted civil unions, giving equal rights to all couples, was of particular significance. The Labour Government of Joseph Muscat is positively responsible for making Malta the fastest climber on the ILGA-Europe' [Rainbow Europe Map](#) compared to 2013.

Helena Dalli, Maltese Minister for Civil Liberties said: *"The LGBTI community is relatively small and can be pushed to the sidelines, unless we take action as decision makers. We cannot stop working on this issue"*

On the opening reception of the forum, Maltese Prime Minister **Joseph Muscat** declared: *"Welcome to a new Malta that is fighting discrimination at every turn"*

"À la carte commitment is not enough... we need to stamp out homophobia and transphobia once and for all."

17 countries signed the [IDAHO declaration of intent](#) recognizing the need for specific actions in order to counteract homophobia, biphobia, transphobia and related intolerance and welcoming international initiatives taken in this field.

Montenegro will be hosting the European forum next year.

Ends

For further information email: contact@rainbowrose.eu or call: +32 495 16 1005

Notes for editors:

1. Rainbow Rose is the network for the LGBT groups of the socialist, social democratic and labour parties across Europe.
2. Rainbow Rose is affiliated to the Party of European Socialists and works with the Progressive Alliance of Socialist and Democrats in the European Parliament
3. You can find more about Rainbow Rose on [Facebook](#) or its [website](#)