



## Press Release

**25 February 2014**  
**For immediate release**

### **Prohibition of same-sex marriage in constitution is not acceptable in Slovakia or anywhere else in the European Union**

Recently, some political manoeuvring has been taking place in Slovakia in order to restrict the definition of marriage in their constitution. The opposition party the Christian-democratic party KDH is calling for other political parties to support its proposal to this effect.

Under current Slovak legislation, same-sex couples enjoy no recognition, either by means of marriage or in the form of civil partnerships or legal cohabitation.

This is not the first time that such a proposal has been discussed in Slovakia, but recent declarations from other parties, including from SMER (member of Party of European Socialists – PES), are very worrying.

Aurelien Mazuy, President of Rainbow Rose said: "Constitutions are not intended to restrict the rights of citizens access to marriage. There is no need to amend this fundamental text on such an issue, this is an abuse of the constitution and establishes a worrying precedent".

"In 2011, at European level, MEPs, including from SMER, denounced the same change in the Hungarian constitution and it called for equal protection of the rights of every citizen to be guaranteed, *"no matter which [...] sexual [...] or other group they belong to"*<sup>1</sup>. SMER has to be coherent and apply the same standards.

"There is currently a worrying trend in Europe, with a powerful conservative lobby pushing for the stigmatisation of LGBT people and for restrictions on their rights. The same tactics as employed in Croatia are being used in Slovakia.

"Rainbow Rose is calling for SMER, PES and the European Parliament to take a clear stand on this issue and to unconditionally reject a support for this constitutional amendment. Furthermore we call on all LGBT people in EU and EEA countries, their friends and supporters to express their contempt for Slovakian politicians supporting this abuse of power"

**Ends**

For further information email: [contact@rainbowrose.eu](mailto:contact@rainbowrose.eu) or call: +32 495 16 1005

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<sup>1</sup> SMER's MEP Monika Flisikova-Benova, on behalf of the S&D Group, was one of the proposer of the [European Parliament's resolution of 5 July 2011](#) on the Revised Hungarian Constitution. This resolution called for equal protection of the rights of every citizen to be guaranteed, *"no matter which [...] sexual [...] or other group they belong to"*. It also took a clear stand against any form of Constitutional amendments that would prevent *"future governments and democratically elected legislatures to take autonomous decisions"* on policies such as family policies.

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](#)