

Malone Stephen HQ-POLITICAL

From: Cunningham Gerry HQ-POLITICAL
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With thanks to Catherine for preparing, please find attached a background note briefly summarising the current status of Human Rights Ambassadors in ten EU MS, as well as in the UK and US.

- The majority adopt an overall “Ambassador at Large” approach.
- Additional special responsibilities are common e.g. Media/online freedom (EE, FI, NL); Religion freedom/holocaust (EE; SE) Democracy/RoL (FI, LT, ES); HRDs (FR, LU); LGBTI (IT); B&HR (IT, LU); Gender (LT, NL).
- The Ambassadors from FR; NL; DE; SE all seem to attach a high priority (perhaps with greater authority) to maintaining a close dialogue with wider civil society; mainstreaming human rights across foreign policy; and representation in relevant multilateral fora at HRC/UPR or on specific topics at HRC/UPR; EU/CoE/OSCE fora etc
- Only one appears to be a career diplomat (IT)
- A few countries have additional “special envoys” (Religion - NL, UK). The US does not appear to have an “Ambassador at Large” but has “Special Envoys” on LGBTI, Religious Freedom, and on Gender Equality.
- Apart from the issue of mandates; reporting; and resources, the level of interaction at EU level is noteworthy (several meetings per year and some 5-6 statements in the last month alone.

We are happy to follow up in due course in relation to any queries

Regards

Gerry