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*The role of ombudsmen and similar bodies in the implementation  
of anti-discrimination law in Europe*

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**1 EU legislation on discrimination**

The basic provision of the EU legislation concerning the prohibition of discrimination is Article 13 EC Treaty introduced by the Amsterdam Treaty which reads:

“ Without prejudice to the other provision of this Treaty and within the limits of the power conferred by it upon the Community, the Council, acting unanimously on a proposal from the Commission and after consulting the European Parliament, may take appropriate action to combat discrimination based on sex,

