

**EPSCO**  
**(3474th meeting on 16 June 2016)**

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**Item 11b):** Draft Council conclusions: Response to the Commission's list of actions to advance LGBTI equality  
- *Adoption*

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**STATEMENT FROM SWEDEN, DENMARK, AUSTRIA AND BELGIUM**

We welcome the fact that the Council has for the first time adopted Conclusions concerning equal rights for LGBTI persons within the EU. However, we would have preferred a more ambitious and stronger message concerning the enjoyment of human rights by LGBTI-persons.

Therefore, on the basis of these Conclusions, it is even more important than before to continue to work within and outside the EU for equal rights and opportunities for everyone, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, and to ensure that cultural, traditional or religious values cannot be invoked to justify any form of discrimination, including discrimination against LGBTI persons.

We hope to continue this struggle together with other member states.

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