



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL JUSTICE and CONSUMERS

Directorate D: Equality
Unit D.1: Equality legislation

Brussels,
D.1 /AS/VN

To WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Subject: evaluation study on the application of the Directive 79/7/EEC on the progressive implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women in matters of social security.

The European Commission Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (DG JUST) has commissioned Ernst & Young to carry out an evaluation study on the application of the Directive 79/7/EEC on the progressive implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women in matters of social security. The objective of the study is to perform an in depth analysis of national social security systems aimed at understanding how the Directive has been transposed and to develop recommendations on the basis of the findings in view of the possible modernization of the Directive Itself.

From a legal perspective, the study is aimed at pointing out which aspects within EU social security system design do not seem to respond to gender equality and to elaborate on the way the Directive is transposed into national legislation at Member State (MS) level with a particular attention to whether exclusions laid down in Art.3(2) and derogations set by Art.7(1) are still used by MS. More in general the study will assess whether such provisions had a legal impact in hindering/fostering the equal treatment between women and men in the field of statutory social security.

From an economic perspective, the study will aim at evaluating the underlying reasons for not applying the principle of equal treatment of men and women– in case of the use of exclusions and derogations set by the Directive. This analysis should allow to evaluate how the principle of equal treatment between men and women was effectively implemented in statutory social security systems also looking at how the gender gap in those systems has evolved after the introduction of the Directive.

The study foresees a series of interviews with various categories of stakeholders – ministries, national equality bodies, other national institutions, experts and private companies administering social security schemes covered by the Directive - to obtain in-depth information on the relevant aspects for the evaluation of the Directive. In this context you might be contacted by Ernst and Young for scheduling an interview. We hope, therefore, that you will be able to respond to the request.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Yours faithfully,

Andreas STEIN