



NEWS REPORT

Date:	5 December 2011
Expert:	Lorenzo Cachón
Title:	Comprehensive Bill for equal treatment and non-discrimination withdrawn
Country:	Spain
<u>Context</u>	
Ground of discrimination:	All the grounds
Source:	Decision of the Council of Ministers
Field:	All the fields
Legislative provisions:	Comprehensive Bill for equal treatment and non-discrimination

Content

Background: The Flash Report No. 1096 of 25 January 2011, entitled "Comprehensive Bill for Equal Treatment and non discrimination tabled", reported the introduction of a new anti-discrimination bill to the Parliament and noted its importance as it aimed at filling the existing gaps in anti-discrimination law in Spain. The bill showed three features: it provided guarantees for individuals as mechanisms to ensure the exercise of rights were introduced, the law was general as it redressed deficiencies and imbalances in various fields and was comprehensive as it covered all grounds and fields.

Content: The legislature that began in March 2008 was extended until March 2012. The bill submitted by the Government in January 2011 could have been approved before the end of the legislature. But the decision of the Prime Minister to hold early elections on 20 November 2011 suspended the work of Parliament from 27 September on and the bill could not be approved.

The conservative Popular Party won the elections on 20 November by an absolute majority and will form the new Government in late December. Equality policies are not part of the priorities of the Popular Party and equal treatment and non-discrimination was not in their electoral program.



Moreover, this party had been very critical towards the Comprehensive Bill for Equal Treatment and non-discrimination. Therefore, we should not expect that the forthcoming conservative Government would submit a similar project to the Parliament in the future.