



NEWS REPORT

Date: 21 August 2009
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Title: Inquiry into extension of the prohibition of age discrimination
Country: Sweden

Context

Issue at stake: Possible law amendment
Ground of age discrimination: of age
Source: Legislation
Field: Employment, social protection, social advantages, access to goods and services
Legislative provisions: The Discrimination Act

Content

The Swedish government decided on the 13 of August 2009 to appoint a special investigator to make an inquiry into the need to amend some provisions of the (2008:567) Discrimination Act with regard to age discrimination.¹ The inquiry shall suggest new legislation introducing a prohibition of age discrimination in the following areas:

- Supply of goods and services, and housing, including open meetings² and public events (Chapter 2 Section 12) of the Discrimination Act.
- Health medical care and social services (Chapter 2 Section 13)
- Social insurance system, including unemployment insurance and financial aid for studies (Chapter 2 Section 14).
- Public employment (Chapter 2 Section 17).

The suggested changes to the Discrimination Act will anticipate the arrival of the proposed Council Directive³ on implementing the principle of equal treatment irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation outside the field of employment, and further implement the Directive into national legislation.

The inquiry will report back to the government on 27 August 2010.

¹ Dir 2009:72

² The Swedish word “sammankomst” refers to a gathering of a small number of people. If, for instance, a group organises a discussion on a subject and invites the public, the prohibition applies even though the number of participants is small.

³ COM (2008) 426 final