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'BRUSSELS SO WHITE' NEEDS ACTION, NOT MAGICAL THINKING

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For an exhilarating moment last year, 'Brussels So White' seemed to be cracking under pressure.

As Black Lives Matter protests spread across European cities in summer 2020, the European Union finally appeared ready to accept rather than neglect the continent's vibrant racial, ethnic, religious and cultural mix.

European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen promised to create a Europe that was "more equal, more humane and more fair", called out institutional racism and insisted: "we must bring Europe's amazing diversity into our civil service".

The rhetoric was impressive, the promises fueled hope.

The commission has brought out multiple equality strategies. Last year's ambitious "anti-racism action plan" is being implemented with the help of a first-ever EU "anti-racism coordinator", Finland's Michaela Moua.

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