



## **Trio Presidency Declaration: „Towards Gender Equality in the European Union“**

**Informal Meeting of the Ministers for Gender Equality and  
Family Affairs, May 15 –16 2007, Bad Pyrmont**

**INFORMAL MEETING OF MINISTERS FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND FAMILY AFFAIRS:  
“TOWARDS GENDER EQUALITY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION”  
TRIO PRESIDENCY DECLARATION**

**A. We, the first Trio of Presidencies – Germany, Portugal and Slovenia – recognise the need for a common declaration and present it at the Informal Meeting of Ministers for Gender Equality and Family Affairs on 15/16 May 2007.**

1. We reaffirm that gender equality is a fundamental right, a fundamental principle of the European Union enshrined in the EC Treaty, as well as one of the EU objectives, reconfirmed in the Berlin Declaration on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the signature of the Treaties of Rome, and a necessary condition for the achievement of the Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs.
2. We recognise that gender equality policies are essential instruments for social cohesion, economic growth, prosperity and competitiveness and need to be implemented through specific measures and by mainstreaming equality between women and men in all relevant activities.
3. We therefore identify and acknowledge the need for Member States to integrate a gender perspective in responses to times of demographic change and its set of interrelated challenges and opportunities with implications for the state, the society, men and women, families, young and older people, as well as in order to increase competitiveness in a globalised economy, to increase employment, social cohesion, and to maintain sound social security systems.
4. We recall that by adopting the European Pact for Gender Equality at the European Council in March 2006, Member States committed themselves to implement gender equality policies and measures at the European and national level.
5. We emphasise that the implementation of the European Pact for Gender Equality by Member States goes hand in hand and seeks complementarities and synergies with the implementation of the Commission’s Roadmap for Equality between women and men 2006-2010, and the Social Partner’s Framework of Actions on Gender Equality thereby asking for a reinforced partnership between Member States, the European Commission, Social Partners and other actors.

6. We thus emphasise our determination to contribute to an accelerated and effective implementation of the Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs - in particular by ensuring that gender equality remains a key component of this strategy in the future and by increasing efforts to implement the European Pact for Gender Equality and the Commission's Roadmap for equality between women and men.
7. We reaffirm our strong support for and commitment to the full implementation of the goals and objectives set in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.
8. We believe that a Trio Presidency declaration represents a long-term commitment for sustainable cooperation on gender equality policies and promotion of gender mainstreaming, and can thus set a good example to be built upon in the future by following Presidencies, and therefore, adds value to the continuity, complementarities and mutual support in the process of implementing EU gender equality policies.

**B. "Gender Stereotypes" is the intertwining theme of the Trio Presidency gender equality work. All forms of discrimination on the grounds of sex are based on gender stereotypes. Gender-based stereotyping can be found in all areas of society as a determinant factor and smallest common denominator for gender inequalities and unbalanced participation. Therefore, we identify the following priorities for our 18 months framework of activities:**

1. To encourage Member States to eliminate all forms of gender stereotypes, in education and training, culture, media, labour market and decision-making and to promote empowerment of girls and young women in society;
2. To foster the commitment among Member States to increase women's employment and participation in decision-making, to enhance reconciliation between work, family and private life for women and men, to eliminate the gender pay gap, to promote female entrepreneurship, and to redress the gender imbalance in the field of education and training;
3. To promote the participation of migrant women in all areas of society, in particular in employment and in education and training;
4. To advance the knowledge and implementation of gender mainstreaming by putting into practice several measures to promote gender mainstreaming in the work of the Council as well in the process of council formations.

**C. With a view to promote and further implement gender equality in regard to the areas of priority, the following events and activities will take place during the first Trio Presidency of Germany, Portugal and Slovenia in order to raise awareness, exchange best practices, promote gender-specific statistical analysis and advance gender mainstreaming:**

**1. Germany:**

- Meeting of the High Level Group on Gender Mainstreaming;
- Side event, in cooperation with Finland and the EU-Commission, on the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality at the UN Commission on the Status of Women;
- Informal Meeting of Ministers for Gender Equality and Family Affairs on equal opportunities for women and men in employment and family;
- Follow-up of the Beijing Platform for Action: Adoption of Council Conclusions – Indicators on “Education and Training of Women”;
- EU Gender Budgeting Conference: “Let’s share the benefit - with gender budgeting towards social justice and equal opportunities”;
- Sinus-Milieus® research to describe changes in the attitudes and behaviour of the population with regard to gender equality.

**2. Portugal:**

- Meeting of the High Level Group on Gender Mainstreaming;
- Conference on Reconciliation between work, family and private life and Social Dialogue integrating the debate on flexicurity and on social services;
- Conference of Experts on Entrepreneurship and Employability - Gender Stereotypes;
- Informal Meeting of Ministers for Gender Equality on Entrepreneurship and Employability – Legislative measures of Member States;
- Conference on Trafficking in Human Beings and Gender;
- 6<sup>th</sup> European Round Table on Poverty and Social Exclusion integrating the debate on women and poverty;
- Follow-up of the Beijing Platform for Action: Adoption of Council Conclusions – Indicators on “Women and Poverty”;
- Euromed Gender Equality – experts’ meeting to follow-up the implementation of the 5 Year Action Plan adopted in November 2006.

### **3. Slovenia:**

- Meeting of the High Level Group on Gender Mainstreaming;
- Conference on Gender Stereotypes;
- Informal meeting of Ministers for Gender Equality;
- Trio Presidency side event at the UN Commission on the Status of Women;
- Programme of exchange of good practices - Expert seminar on reconciliation of work and private and family life;
- Follow-up of the Beijing Platform for Action: Adoption of Council Conclusions - Indicators on “The Girl Child”;
- Follow-up of the Beijing Platform for Action – Review of the indicators on women in political decision-making.

**D. The assessment and evaluation of this Trio Presidency declaration, its implementation and its contribution to the implementation of the European Pact for Gender Equality and the Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs, as well to the achievement of the objectives of the Roadmap, shall be carried out in mid 2008. This stocktaking will represent a contribution from the three presidencies to the achievement of gender equality objectives, in parallel to the report on the state of implementation of the Roadmap expected by the Commission also in 2008.**