



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 23 May 2002 (30.05)
(OR. es)**

**8875/1/02
REV 1**

SOC 248

INFORMATION NOTE

from : Presidency
to : Employment and Social Policy Council of 3 June 2002
Subject : Violence against women

- (a) Study on the phenomenon of violence against women in the Member States of the European Union
 - (b) Guide of best practice for the eradication of violence against women
 - Presidency briefing
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Delegations will find attached an information note from the Presidency with a view to the submission of documents (a) and (b) to the Employment and Social Policy Council of 3 June 2002.

In February 2002 the Ministers responsible for equal opportunities between women and men in the fifteen Member States of the European Union met in the city of Santiago de Compostela on the occasion of a Conference on violence against women organised by the Spanish Presidency.

At the Conference, the Spanish Presidency described the progress of the **Study** and the **Guide of Best Practice** which are now being submitted in their final versions. As the issue of violence affects many areas, the Conference considered that both documents should not only be submitted to the Employment and Social Policy Council of 7 March 2002 but also to the Justice and Home Affairs, Education, Youth and Health Councils. During the Employment and Social Policy Council of 7 March 2002, a public debate was held on the issue of violence against women. The debate demonstrated the need to establish an integrated, multidisciplinary and multi-level approach to eradicating violence against women. Similarly, the conclusions of the Barcelona European Council of 15 to 16 March 2002 underlined the importance of the issue of violence against women and the need for the collaboration of all the political sectors involved in order to eradicate it.

The **Study** now being submitted was drawn up on the basis of the replies to an extensive questionnaire given to the fifteen Member States which enabled:

- Information to be obtained about progress made in the European Union regarding the measures proposed in the Platform for Action of the IV World Conference on Women to reduce the effects of violence against women and eradicate the problem.
- Criteria to be established to select examples of best practice by Member States in order to include a description of them in the Guide.

In addition to compiling information on the educational, legal, judicial, health and police measures taken into account in previous discussions, information was also obtained on resources and social services for victims, rehabilitation programmes for the aggressors, data recording systems, surveys and investigations and measures to raise awareness.

In the **Study**, the information has been dealt with in a globalised manner, referring to every country that makes up the European Union and from there the **Guide of Best Practice** was drawn up including examples of measures taken in various Member States in order to reduce the effects of domestic violence, sexual violence and violence in the workplace and to achieve its eradication.

Gathering concrete examples of best practice provides a useful operational tool which may facilitate the preparation of programmes and concrete intervention strategies.

The same issues are therefore addressed in the **Study** and **Guide**, but the latter goes into more detail and provides concrete examples. The Guide also gives a general overview on the reflections, considerations and results of discussions held within the European Union and the Council of Europe.

