



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 27 May 2005**

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CONUN 13  
ONU 59**

**INTRODUCTORY NOTE**

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from : Permanent Representatives Committee (Part I)

to : Council (EPSCO)

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Subject : **Review of the implementation by the Member States and the EU institutions  
of the Beijing Platform for Action  
- Draft Council Conclusions**

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In the context of the follow-up of the Beijing Platform for Action, adopted during the United Nations World Conference on Women in 1995, the Luxembourg Presidency decided to prepare Council Conclusions which refer to the work undertaken in the preparation for the ten-year review of the Beijing Platform for Action (Beijing + 10) and reflect the commitments made by EU in this respect.

Delegations will find attached in the Annex the draft Council Conclusions on which general agreement was reached by the Permanent Representatives Committee on 26 May 2005.

It should be noted that, at this stage, the LV delegation has a linguistic scrutiny reservation.

**Draft Council Conclusions on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action  
and the outcome documents of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Special Session of  
the General Assembly of the United Nations**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Recognising that:

gender equality is a fundamental principle of the European Union enshrined in the EC Treaty and one of the objectives and tasks of the Community and that mainstreaming equality between women and men in all its activities represents a specific mission for the Community;

Reaffirming that:

the full enjoyment of all human rights by women and girls is an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights and is essential for the advancement of women and girls, peace and development;

Considering that:

1. following the UN's Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, the Madrid European Council (15 to 16 December 1995) requested an annual review of the implementation in the Member States of the Beijing Platform for Action;
2. since 1999, sets of quantitative and qualitative indicators have been developed by subsequent Presidencies in some of the 12 critical areas of concern in the Beijing Platform for Action,

namely: 1999 - Women in political decision-making; 2000 - Women in the economy (reconciliation of work and family life); 2001 - Women in the economy (on equal pay); 2002 - Violence against women; 2003 - Women and men in economic decision-making; 2004 - Sexual harassment at the workplace. Each year the Council has adopted conclusions on these indicators;

3. the report of the Luxembourg Presidency of the Council of the European Union presented at the European Conference held in Luxembourg on 2 and 3 February 2005 on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the 23<sup>rd</sup> special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations (Beijing + 5), undertook an analysis of progress made within the European Union, of national mechanisms, their methods and tools and identified obstacles preventing the full realisation of gender equality as well as the major remaining challenges;
4. the European Parliament resolution of 10 March 2005 on the "Follow-up of the fourth World Conference – Platform for Action (Beijing + 10)" and the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee of 9 February 2005 on "Beijing +10: Review of progress achieved in the field of gender equality in Europe and in developing countries";
5. the common declaration adopted on 4 February 2005 by the EU ministers responsible for gender equality policies as the basis for future European strategies;
6. the political declaration, adopted on 4 March 2005, during the 49<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations in 2000, which reaffirms the Declaration and Platform of Action of Beijing,

## THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

1. ACKNOWLEDGES the conclusions of the report of the Luxembourg Presidency on "Progress made within the EU" following the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the Presidency conference on the Review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action held on 2 and 3 February 2005 in Luxembourg;
2. WELCOMES the declaration adopted on 4 February 2005 in Luxembourg by the ministers of the EU Member States responsible for gender equality policy, as a part of the review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (Beijing + 10) and the outcome documents of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations held in 2000;
3. WELCOMES the political declaration adopted by the UN Member States on 4 March 2005 during the 49<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York;
4. REAFFIRMS its strong support for, and commitment to, the full implementation of the goals and objectives set and the commitments made in the Declaration and Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Beijing + 5 Political Declaration and Outcome Document of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations;
5. REAFFIRMS the commitment to the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment, including through development cooperation and partnership, and recognises that gender equality and women's empowerment are of fundamental importance for the achievement of sustainable development and the eradication of poverty;
6. EMPHASISES the need to take concrete steps both to implement gender mainstreaming and in support of specific actions to achieve gender equality;

7. ENCOURAGES Member States and the Commission to develop methods and tools for gender mainstreaming, such as gender budgeting, gender audit and gender impact assessment as a priority for the future and to further develop gender expertise and gender training;
8. UNDERLINES the importance of enhanced dialogue and cooperation with civil society and the social partners;
9. INVITES Member States and the Commission, in connection with activities under the programme for equality between women and men, the work of the future European Institute for Gender Equality and other Community activities, to continue to focus on the critical areas of concern mentioned in the Beijing Platform for Action;
10. INVITES Member States and the Commission to support, encourage and disseminate research; to continue to improve the collection and compilation of timely, reliable, comparable data disaggregated by sex on the multiple factors that affect the full enjoyment by women of their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including their right to development, and on violations that are particular to women and girls; to disseminate the findings and to use data thus collected to set time-bound targets and to assess the implementation of the human rights of women;
11. INVITES Member States and the Commission to strengthen institutional mechanisms and to create a framework to assess the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in order to create a more consistent and systematic monitoring of progress;
12. INVITES the Commission to include the assessment of relevant indicators, developed for the follow-up of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, in its annual report to the Spring European Council;

13. CONFIRMS the mission of the high-level group on gender-mainstreaming established by the Commission to follow up the Beijing Platform for Action in the Council and to ensure gender mainstreaming in Council formations;
14. STRESSES the importance of strengthening the link between the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol, the Beijing Platform for Action, the Cairo Programme of Action, the Copenhagen Declaration and Action Programme, the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals and emphasises the need to adopt, at European level, a coherent approach towards these different objectives which are reinforced mutually;
15. URGES the Member States and the Commission to ensure that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Cairo Programme of Action are fully integrated into the preparation for, and the outcome of, the Millennium Summit in September 2005. Moreover, a gender perspective should be fully taken into account during the high-level review of the Millennium Declaration and integrated through the seven strategic priorities identified in the Millennium Projects in order to empower women and meet the Millennium Development Goals.

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