



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 3 June 2009

10562/09

SOC 387

NOTE

from : The Presidency
to : COUNCIL (Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs)

**Subject : Information from the Czech Presidency on the Conference
“New ways in overcoming gender stereotypes”
(Prague, 27 May 2009)
(Any other business item)**

Delegations will find attached a note from the Presidency.

Information
on the Presidency Conference
“New ways in overcoming gender stereotypes”
Prague, 27 May 2009

The aim of the conference was an exchange of views and experience on effective tools and methods for overcoming gender stereotypes in Europe.

Delegates recalled that the main obstacle in promoting equal opportunities for women and men in the European Union is not legislation, but especially preconceptions and stereotypes which prevent women and men from making free choices and deciding on their own lives. Changing legal regulations alone is not enough to overcome these preconceptions. Above all, it is necessary to change the public's deep-seated opinions in the direction of support for equal opportunities for women and men as a foundation stone of every democratic society and as a basic condition of that society's successful development.

The Conference confirmed that Member States have introduced various innovative approaches, tools and ways in the areas of education, media and decision-making, which, in a European context, will facilitate positive changes in public opinion. These methods and tools include, especially, awareness and education, informational events, best practice examples etc.