



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 1 March 2010**

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**NOTE**

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

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**Subject : Information from the Spanish Presidency on the "European Women in Power Summit"  
(Cadiz, 3 February 2010)  
(Any other business item)**

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Delegations will find attached a note from the Presidency.

## **Information from the Spanish Presidency on the "European Women in Power Summit"**

**Cadiz, 3 February 2010**

On the initiative of the Governments of Spain and the United Kingdom, the Cadiz European Women in Power Summit – successor of the meeting held in Athens in November 1992 – was organised on 3 February 2010 with the aim of giving new impetus to equality as a political factor in the European venture. This informal meeting of women in power brought together 28 ministers and state secretaries from 19 European countries.

The following topics were discussed:

- parity in representative democracy in the EU, with an analysis of the bearing which parity has on governments' political agendas,
- equality in the EU 2020 Strategy and economic development, as a factor in women's input in overcoming the economic and financial crisis and in shaping a new economic model and lastly,
- new resistance and obstacles to effective equality.

At the close of the meeting, the participants adopted a political statement entitled the "Cadiz Declaration" calling upon the EU institutions, the Governments of the 27 Member States, social and economic partners, academic and scientific institutions and all men and women, to remove the obstacles which prevent the full participation of women in all areas of society and their access and progression in decision-making positions, thus contributing towards a fairer, more equal, more inclusive and successful society.

As political leaders at national and EU levels, the participants pledged in the Declaration to work to ensure the balanced participation of women and men in positions of responsibility; to promote shared responsibility; to turn gender equality into a priority on the political agendas of the Member States and of the EU; to stimulate normative changes, including gender mainstreaming; to work to include the gender dimension in responses to the economic and financial crisis; to promote gender equality in the Union's Foreign Action and Development Cooperation; and, lastly, to support the future United Nations Gender Entity.