



EU Side Event

"Comprehensive strategies to combat VAW/domestic violence in the EU: results and challenges"

Side event organized by the EU in conjunction with Ireland, Belgium and Luxembourg on the occasion of the 57th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

Tuesday 5th March

4.45 pm -5.45 pm

Venue: Room B

Participants:

Ms Kathleen Lynch, T.D., Minister of State for Disability, Equality, Mental Health and Older People, Ireland

Ms Joëlle Milquet, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Home Affairs, Minister for Equal Opportunities, Belgium

Ms Françoise Hetto-Gaasch, Minister for Equal Opportunities, Small and Medium-Sized Businesses and Tourism, Luxembourg

Mr Stavros Lambrinidis, EU Special Representative for Human Rights, European External Action Service

Ms Antonyia Parvanova, Member of the European Parliament, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality, European Union

Ms Viviane Teitelbaum, President of the European Women's Lobby

Moderator: Mr Aurel Ciobanu-Dordea, Director for Equality, European Commission, European Union

Background

Violence against women is a clear violation of human rights. It is also the most brutal manifestation of gender inequality. Combating all forms of violence against women requires a comprehensive approach based on coordinated policies involving all relevant stakeholders and combining legislative and non-legislative measures aimed at the prevention and elimination of violence, the provision of protection and support to victims, the prosecution of perpetrators, as well as appropriate and sustainable funding for the implementation of these policies and the operation of services.

The European Union and its 27 Member states are committed to a strengthened policy response to combat all forms of violence against women within their territory and in their external relations policies. Key priorities include improving knowledge and understanding of the problem, legislative action in the field of criminal and civil justice, exchange of good practices, fighting discrimination and empowering women, awareness raising and funding to the civil society for actions aimed at combating violence against women.

This side-event aims to present the European Union's role and activities as well as some good examples of national strategies of Member States which are intended to effectively address and combat violence against women.

Programme

Mr Aurel Ciobanu-Dordea, Director for Equality, European Commission (DG Justice) will moderate the debate and close the event providing a short overview of the EU internal activities aiming to eradicate violence against women and to support EU Member States' efforts.

Ms Kathleen Lynch, T.D., Minister of State for Disability, Equality, Mental Health and Older People, Ireland will discuss the Irish national strategy to combat violence against women, in particular focusing on the organisational efforts and challenges involved in the set-up of a multidisciplinary and multi-agency approach.

Ms Joëlle Milquet, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Home Affairs, Minister for Equal Opportunities, Belgium will also discuss the need for a multidisciplinary approach but from a local perspective angle focusing on the collaboration by all services and stakeholders on the ground. She will do so by showcasing Belgian local innovative projects, which tackle the roots causes of domestic violence and strengthen the protection of victims, also highlighting the learning process that allowed positive results.

Mrs Françoise Hetto-Gaasch, Minister for Equal Opportunities, Small and Medium-Sized Businesses and Tourism, Luxembourg will present an innovative legislation to protect the victims of domestic violence by keeping the perpetrators away and giving them specialised assistance in order to end the spiral of violence.

Mr Stavros Lambrinidis, EU Special Representative on Human Rights, will present the EU external dimension priorities on violence against women.

Ms Antonyia Parvanova, Member of the European Parliament, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality, will talk about the activities of the European Parliament to eradicate violence against women and will highlight the challenges faced in the EU.

Ms Viviane Teitelbaum, President of the European Women's Lobby will speak about the activities and position of the EWL in relation to policies to combat violence against women from an NGO perspective.

Followed by questions and answers