



47 member States

Albania
Andorra
Armenia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Belgium
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Estonia
Finland
France
Georgia
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Iceland
Ireland
Italy
Latvia
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malta
Moldova
Monaco
Montenegro
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Russia
San Marino
Serbia
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"
Turkey
Ukraine
United Kingdom

Strasbourg, 17.05.2010

Why is progress towards equality between men and women so slow? – Council of Europe ministerial conference in Baku

Date: 24-25 May 2010

Location: Baku (Azerbaijan) – Gulistan Palace. Istiglaliyat str., 1

Organised by the Council of Europe and the government of Azerbaijan

Description: Council of Europe member states have made significant progress towards equality between women and men by adopting specific laws and policies. However facts show that gaps persist between equality in law and practice. Slow progress has been achieved in many fields. For example, only 21% of members of parliaments in Europe are women and an important salary gap still exists.

The 7th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Equality between Women and Men, under the theme "*Gender equality: bridging the gap between de jure and de facto gender equality*", will be an opportunity to take stock of the progress accomplished and to examine delays and even regression in this field.

European ministers responsible for gender equality will examine what is blocking progress and debate ways to improve the effects of positive action - such as the setting of quotas in decision making bodies or specific funding for firms created by women - and gender mainstreaming, the incorporation of a gender equality dimension in all public policies. They will also discuss how education and the media can combat gender stereotypes.

The ministers will examine and adopt a resolution and an action plan that maps out the future work of the Council of Europe in this field.

Council of Europe Deputy Secretary General Maud de Boer-Buquicchio will participate in the opening session together with UN Deputy Secretary General Asha-Rose Migiro and other speakers, at 10.00 on 24 May.

Practical information:

- Journalists can request accreditation by supplying the following information: Name and ID/passport number, media outlet and country, email address and mobile number. Accreditation requests should be emailed to the press contacts below. Accreditation from the Press Service of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan is also required.

- Two press conferences are scheduled at the venue: a press briefing at 10.45 on 24 May and final press conference after the closure at 13.00 on 25 May.

- Interview requests with participants should be made to the contacts mentioned below.

More information:

[Link to conference programme and key documents](#)

[Council of Europe website on equality between men and women](#)

Press contacts:

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