

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS

RECOMMENDATION No. R (98) 14

OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS TO MEMBER STATES ON GENDER MAINSTREAMING

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 7 October 1998
at the 643rd meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.b of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Considering that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve greater unity between its members for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the ideals and principles which are their common heritage;

Considering that achieving effective equality between women and men is an integral part of these ideals and principles;

Having regard, in this context, to its declaration on the equality of women and men, adopted on 16 November 1988;

Bearing in mind the objectives set forward in the declaration and platform for action adopted by the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995);

Recalling the declaration adopted at the Second Summit of the Council of Europe (October 1997), in which the heads of state and government of the member states of the Council of Europe stressed “the importance of a more balanced representation of men and women in all sectors of society, including political life”, and called for “continued progress with a view to achieving effective equality of opportunities between women and men”;

Having regard to the declaration on equality between women and men as a fundamental criterion of democracy, adopted by the 4th European Ministerial Conference on Equality between Women and Men (Istanbul, November 1997);

Convinced that one of the main strategies to achieve effective equality between women and men is gender mainstreaming;

Welcoming the report on gender mainstreaming, produced by its Steering Committee on Equality between Women and Men (CDEG), setting out the conceptual framework for gender mainstreaming and a methodology for its implementation, accompanied by examples of good practice;

Convinced that the implementation of the strategy of gender mainstreaming will not only promote effective equality between women and men, but also result in a better use of human resources, improve decision-making and enhance the functioning of democracy,

Recommends that the governments of member states :

- disseminate widely the CDEG's report on gender mainstreaming and encourage its use as a tool for implementing this strategy in the public and private sectors ;
- encourage decision-makers to take inspiration from the report in order to create an enabling environment and facilitate conditions for the implementation of gender mainstreaming in the public sector.