



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



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PRESSE 51

New European Pact for equality between women and men for the period 2011 - 2020

The Council today¹ adopted a new European Pact for gender equality for the period 2011 - 2020.

The new Pact, annexed to Council conclusions (7166/11), reaffirms the EU's commitments to closing gender gaps in employment, education and social protection, promoting better work-life balance for women and men and combatting all forms of violence against women.

It urges action by the member states and the Union, by taking measures to :

- eliminate gender stereotypes, ensure equal pay for equal work and promote the equal participation of women in decision-making;
- improve the supply of affordable and high-quality childcare services and promote flexible working arrangements;
- strengthen the prevention of violence against women and the protection of victims, and focus on the role of men and boys in order to eradicate violence.

It also reaffirms the importance of integrating the gender perspective into all policies including external actions of the EU.

1 At a meeting of the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

P R E S S

Gender equality is enshrined in the EU treaty, which states "that the Union shall promote equality between women and men, and that this aim is to be pursued in all Union's activities".

It also has an important economic dimension and all member states have agreed to boost employment of both women and men in the context of the Europe 2020 strategy.

The member states are therefore encouraged to promote gender equality policies, especially as regards the EU's employment guidelines. The Commission and the Council are also invited to incorporate a gender equality perspective into the EU's annual growth survey.

