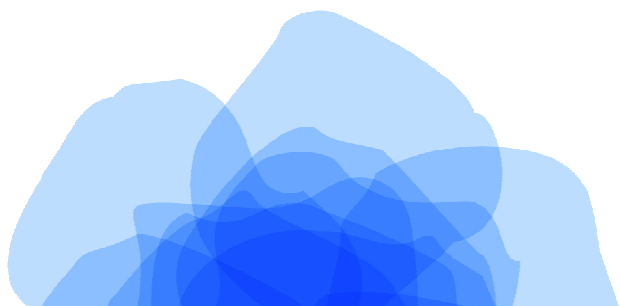




**TRIO PRESIDENCY DECLARATION
- SUPPLEMENT -**

**“TOWARDS GENDER EQUALITY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION –
IN THE CONTEXT OF THE LISBON STRATEGY”**

**INFORMAL MEETING OF MINISTERS FOR GENDER EQUALITY,
October 4th 2007, Lisbon**



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We, the first Trio of Presidencies – Germany, Portugal and Slovenia – signed the Trio Presidency Declaration “Towards Gender Equality in the European Union” on 15 May 2007 in Bad Pyrmont. We herewith present a supplement declaration with focus on the gender dimension in the Lisbon strategy at the Informal Meeting of Ministers for Gender Equality on 4 October 2007.

1. We, convened in Lisbon at the eve of the new cycle of the Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs and in view of the set deadlines of 2010 and the current and future developments of the Strategy, emphasise that the benchmark for economic equality between women and men of the Lisbon Strategy and the concrete target of ensuring 60% female employment by 2010 has been crucial for the promotion of gender equality in employment in the European Union. Member States have made considerable progress in achieving the Lisbon Goals. 8 million new jobs have been created in the EU of which 6 million have been filled by women since 2000.
2. We also recall that the central place of gender equality and reconciliation policies in the Lisbon strategy was reaffirmed by the EU by setting a concrete target for childcare facilities of 33% of childcare for children aged 0-3 and 90% of children aged from three to the compulsory school age, by 2010;
3. We, however, recognise that there remains work to be done and stress the need to multiply efforts to fully achieve gender equality in the labour market in order to achieve the Lisbon targets of 60% for women and 70% for all, as women continue to be under-represented on the labour market; women are still paid less than men on average; occupational and vertical segregation prevails affecting both women and men; women are more often found in low-paid part-time, temporary and unpaid work; both women and men face structural difficulties in reconciling family, private and work life and women continue to bear the main responsibility for children and other dependants care; women are under-represented in decision-making positions; and female entrepreneurship remains an insufficiently utilised source of innovation and competitiveness;

4. We, thus, emphasise the importance of the Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs, and in particular the revision of the Lisbon Strategy by the Council in March 2005 which also calls for qualitative policies and practical initiatives involving EU institutions, Member States, parliaments, social partners and civil society as part of the subsidiary and practical approach;
5. We recognise the European Pact for Gender Equality (2006) and the Commission's Roadmap for Equality between women and men 2006-2010 as the framework for the reinforcement of the gender dimension in the new era of the Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs in order to achieve the set objective to develop an active employment policy for more and better jobs for Europe;

We recall that gender equality is key to growth and competitiveness and reaffirm our commitment and determination to contribute to an accelerated and effective implementation of the Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs, in particular by ensuring a) gender equality to remain a key component of the Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs in the future, b) gender equality mainstreaming in the labour market policies by regarding the Commission's Manual for Gender Mainstreaming of Employment Policies (July 2007) as a guideline to good practices and a concrete tool to mainstream gender equality in the National Reform Programs, c) the reinforcement of measures to ensure equal pay and eliminate the gender pay gap, d) the implementation of measures for effective reconciliation of private, family and work life for both women and men, e) high quality jobs, positions in decision-making and entrepreneurship to be equally accessible to and equally filled by both women and men as well as f) by using all the possibilities provided by the Structural Funds in that respect.