

Working Group X

Working document 23

## **Working group X "Freedom, Security and Justice"**

**Subject :** Paper submitted to Working Group X by Mr. Iñigo Mendez de Vigo, Mrs. Anne Van Lancker, member of the Convention and Mrs. Elena Paciotti, alternate member of the Convention: "Gender equality in an area of freedom, security and justice"

**Contribution to Working Group X "Freedom, Security and Justice" submitted by Anne Van Lancker, Elena Paciotti, Iñigo Mendez de Vigo.**

**Gender equality in an area of freedom, security and justice**

The development of an area of freedom, security and justice should be one of the essential missions of the future enlarged European Union. Women's human rights and equality of women and men form part of the core European values so as the antidiscrimination policy (article 13 TEC). This should be clearly reflected in the objectives and competencies of the area of freedom, security and justice of the Union. We would like to highlight two essential topics related to this gender agenda.

1. Gender mainstreaming in Justice and Home Affairs.

The principle of gender mainstreaming has been so far limited to community policies. Bringing all aspects of the area of freedom security and justice together within one institutional framework under the new Treaty, thus abolishing the so-called third pillar structure, should therefore also provide for the extension of gender mainstreaming to this whole area.

2. Giving the means to the EU to combat all forms of violence against women

Women's human rights and equality are intrinsically linked. all forms of violence are fundamental violations of human rights and persistent obstacles to the enjoyment by women of their rights to equality.

The fight against all forms of violence therefore should be an issue of great concern to all EU countries and to the Union.

Until now, programs like DAPHNE on violence against women have been launched on the basis of the European Community's competence on "health promotion" (art. 152). We therefore recommend the creation of a new provision in the future Treaty laying down a legal basis for the development of a comprehensive policy combating all forms of violence.

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