



Brussels, 16 March 2017  
(OR. en)

7166/17

FREMP 26  
COHOM 29  
JAI 217  
DROIPEN 27

## OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
On: 7 February 2017  
To: Delegations

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Subject: Outcome of the Working Party on Fundamental Rights, Citizens' Rights and Free Movement of Persons (FREMP) of 7 February 2017

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### 1. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as set out in doc. CM 1018/1/17 REV 1.

### 2. Proposal for a Council decision on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention)

FREMP continued the discussions on the EU accession to the Istanbul Convention and examined revised compromise proposals (docs 14756/1/16 REV 1 and 14757/1/16 REV 1) in this respect. Almost all delegations took the floor and the majority of them supported the changes introduced after the last meeting. A number of delegations reiterated their suggestions concerning the change of the scope of the accession. Some of them proposed to broaden it, while a number of delegations recommended to find a more general wording describing the scope. The Presidency took note of all comments and concluded that it would inform delegations in due time on the next steps.

### **3. EU Citizenship Report 2017**

Representatives of the Commission presented the EU Citizenship Report 2017 package consisting of a report called 'Strengthening Citizens' Rights in a Union of Democratic change' and 'Article 25 Report, covering developments in the field of EU Citizenship for the period from 1 January 2013 to 30 June 2016' (docs 5549/2017 and 5550/2017). The Commission reports every three years on the application of the provisions of non-discrimination and Union citizenship and on previous (2013) EU Citizenship Report actions. The 2017 report sets out twelve priorities for 2017-2019 and focuses on: promoting, protecting and strengthening EU citizenship rights and EU common values; increasing and improving citizens' participation in the democratic life of the EU; simplifying EU citizens' daily lives, in particular by removing legal, procedural and technological barriers, strengthening security and promoting equality and protecting everybody in the EU from discrimination. Several delegations took the floor and presented initial general comments on the Commission Report. The French delegation underlined that France did not recognise the Roma as the largest minority in Europe neither as the concept of "ethnic minority" mentioned in the Report as it would contradict the constitutional principle of equality. The Presidency informed delegations that draft Council conclusions on the 2017 Report will be distributed ahead of the next FREMP meeting.

### **4. Any other business**

Representatives of the Commission presented the 2017 Focused Actions to combat violence against women, in particular: funding to support national information, awareness-raising and education activities aimed at preventing and combating violence against women; funding for transnational projects by civil society organisations, local authorities, universities and other stakeholders; European "umbrella" activities including: Eurobarometer on gender-based violence, social media campaign, exchanges of good practice, Maltese Presidency conference on violence against women, mainstreaming in other policy areas.