



Council of the  
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#### NOTE

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From:	Presidency
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Presidency events - <i>Information from the Presidency</i>

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Delegations will find attached information on the events organised by the Presidency, with a view to the EPSCO Council on 7 May 2024 (Any Other Business item).

## **INFORMATION ON THE EVENTS ORGANISED BY THE BELGIAN PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

### **Informal meeting of Ministers of Gender Equality, 26-27 February 2024, Brussels**

On 26 and 27 February 2024, Gender Equality Ministers met informally in Brussels. The meeting was dedicated to looking back at key achievements of the current legislative term and discussing the future of gender equality in the EU. On the first day, Ministers and State Secretaries representing the current and forthcoming Trio Presidencies were invited to an informal lunch meeting followed by a field visit to a Sexual Assault Centre in Brussels. On the second day, all Ministers, the European Commission, European Parliament, the European Institute on Gender Equality (EIGE) and the European Women's Lobby were invited by Ms Marie-Colline Leroy, State Secretary for Gender Equality, Equal Opportunities and Diversity, to reflect on lessons learned, and to exchange views on the emerging issues for the future of gender equality policy in the EU. The Belgian Presidency has sought to encourage the creation of an even stronger political agenda on gender equality, and to place it at the very centre of the future institutional framework. In this context, discussions on how to accelerate progress towards gender equality in the EU in the years to come, in particular by further strengthening the institutional mechanisms at EU level during the next political mandate, took place.

### **High-level conferences**

#### **LBGTQI+ Conference “Pride Alliances and Policy: Towards a Union of Equality”, 16-17 May 2024, Brussels**

On 16-17 May 2024 the Belgian Presidency will organise a high-level event with the EU Ministers, the Commissioner for Equality Ms Helena Dalli, Members of the European Parliament, and other high-level speakers, including representatives of civil society organisations. Guests will attend with the view to discussing the progress and obstacles to the implementation of the current EU LBGTIQ Equality Strategy and the way forward for the new institutional cycle.

On the occasion of this High-Level Conference and with a view to the next legislative term, the Presidency proposes to Member States to sign a declaration on the continued advancement of the human rights of LGBTIQ+ persons, calling on Member States and the Commission to renew their commitment for a European Union where the human rights of LGBTIQ+ people are guaranteed, fully respected, implemented and enforced.

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