



Council of the
European Union

040793/EU XXVIII.GP
Eingelangt am 27/10/25

Brussels, 27 October 2025
(OR. en)

14183/25
PV CONS 51
SOC 675
EMPL 442
SAN 640
CONSOM 227
PARLNAT

DRAFT MINUTES

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
(Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs)

17 October 2025

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Council adopted the agenda as set out in document 13660/25.

2. Approval of "A" items

Non-legislative list

13744/25

The Council adopted all "A" items listed in the document above, including all linguistic COR and REV documents presented for adoption.

Statements to these items are set out in the Addendum.

b) Legislative list (Public deliberation in accordance with Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union)

13745/25

Economic and Financial Affairs

1. Amendments of the European Parliament to the Council's position on the draft budget for 2026

SC

13726/25

FIN

Non-approval of the European Parliament's amendment(s)
approved by Coreper, Part 2, on 15.10.2025

The Council confirmed that it cannot approve all the amendments to the Council's position on the draft budget for 2026 should they be adopted by the European Parliament and approved the draft letter to the European Parliament to that effect, as set out in the Annex of the document above.

Non-legislative activities

3. Conclusions on violence against women and domestic violence: prevention, early detection and intervention

2

13244/25 + ADD 1

Approval

The Council approved the 'Conclusions on violence against women and domestic violence: prevention, early detection and intervention', as set out in the document above.

Bulgaria and Hungary presented statements, as set out in the Annex.

4. **Combating hate, discrimination and violence against LGBTIQ persons** [2] 13236/25 + COR 1
Exchange of views

The Council held an exchange of views on ‘Combating hate, discrimination and violence against LGBTIQ persons’, guided by the Presidency note as set out in the document above.

5. **Conclusions on the social inclusion of persons with disabilities through the promotion of independent living** [2] 13386/25
+ COR 1 (mt)
+ REV 1 (de)
+ REV 2 (fr)
Approval

The Council approved the ‘Conclusions on the social inclusion of persons with disabilities through the promotion of independent living’, as set out in the document above.

6. **Advancing disability rights in the EU: challenges, progress and future directions** [2] 13392/25
Exchange of views

The Council held an exchange of views on ‘Advancing disability rights in the EU: challenges, progress and future directions’, guided by the Presidency note as set out in the document above.

Any other business

7. a) **Gender Equality Index, including thematic focus on gender stereotypes¹** [2] 13456/25
Information from the Presidency

The Council took note of the information provided by the Presidency and the European Institute for Gender Equality.

¹ In the presence of the Director of the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE).

b) Presidency events:

 13472/25

i) High-level conferences

1. Equality policy

The Council took note of the information provided by the Presidency.

2. Social policy

The Council took note of the information provided by the Presidency.

ii) Informal meeting of Employment and Social affairs Ministers (Aalborg, 7-8 July 2025)

Information from the Presidency

The Council took note of the information provided by the Presidency.

c) 2025 Annual progress report on Simplification, Implementation and Enforcement

 13455/25

Information from the Commission

The Council took note of the information provided by the Commission for Equality, Preparedness and Crisis Management on her Annual report on simplification, implementation and enforcement.

d) Initiative for a European Day of Sign Languages

 13453/1/25 REV 1

Information from Hungary, supported by Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Italy, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain

The Council took note of the information provided by Hungary. Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Ireland and Sweden orally expressed their support for this initiative.



Public debate proposed by the Presidency (Article 8(2) of the Council's Rules of Procedure)

Statements to the non-legislative "B" items set out in doc. 13660/25

Ad "B" item 3: **Conclusions on violence against women and domestic violence:
prevention, early detection and intervention**
Approval

STATEMENT BY HUNGARY

“Hungary recognises and promotes equality between men and women in accordance with the Fundamental Law of Hungary and the primary law, principles and values of the European Union, as well as commitments and principles stemming from international law. Equality between women and men is enshrined in the Treaties of the European Union as a fundamental value. In line with these and its national legislation, Hungary interprets the term ‘gender’ as reference to ‘sex’ and the concept of ‘gender equality’ as ‘providing equal chances and opportunities for women and men’ in the *Council Conclusions on Violence against women and domestic violence: prevention, early detection and intervention.*”

STATEMENT BY BULGARIA

“The Republic of Bulgaria attaches great importance to the promotion and protection of fundamental rights, an important part of which is equality between women and men. The country is and will remain dedicated to the principles and values of the European Union as enshrined in the Treaties.

The Republic of Bulgaria is strongly committed to combatting violence against women and domestic violence. The Bulgarian government and civil society are actively engaged in preventing such forms of violence and in providing adequate protection and support to their victims. As an expression of this commitment, the country also supported the adoption of Directive (EU) 2024/1385 on combating violence against women and domestic violence as an important milestone in combating violence against women and girls, protecting victims and punishing offenders that will support the EU Member States to advance their national legislation.

The statement made upon the adoption of Directive (EU) 2024/1385 refers, amongst others, to the decision of the Bulgarian Constitutional Court adopted in 2018, stating that the Council of Europe’s Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (‘Istanbul Convention’) promotes legal concepts related to the notion of ‘gender’ that are incompatible with the fundamental principles of the Bulgarian Constitution. Moreover, in 2021 the Constitutional Court further clarified that the notion of ‘sex’ used in the Constitution, should, in the context of the national legal order, be understood in its biological sense only (men and women).

In light of the abovementioned and reaffirming its Statement made upon the adoption of Directive (EU) 2024/1385, the Republic of Bulgaria supports the adoption of the Conclusions, while declaring that it interprets all gender-related terminology strictly within the framework of the binary concept of sex.”