

**FRA**

EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

**Ms Vasso Kollia**

Secretary General for Gender Equality
Hellenic Presidency of the Council of the EU
8, Dragatsaniou Str.
GR-10559 Athens
Via email: dtremos@isotita.gr

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Launch conference**'Violence against women across the EU: Abuse at home, work, in public and online'**

Dear Secretary General,

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your personal commitment and the cooperation of your staff throughout the organisation of the high level launch conference **'Violence against women across the EU: Abuse at home, work, in public and online'** on 5 March 2014.

Speaking on behalf of the entire FRA team, it has been a great pleasure to work with the Secretariat General for General Equality of the Greek Ministry of Interior. Please extend my deepest gratitude to everyone involved, particularly to Mr Dimosthenis Tremos, Director for EU Policy and International Cooperation.

The sheer number of participants, the contributions from panellists, the overwhelming interest and the resulting coverage of the topic by Europe's media, were for me all vital ingredients that made it such a highly rewarding experience. I would personally like to thank you for helping to make this topic receive the attention it deserves.

I am sure you will agree it was a fitting occasion to present the findings of such a survey that has been repeatedly called for over the years. I am confident this will help reinvigorate much needed debate across the EU as a catalyst to help bring about change to prevent and protect women from gender-based violence.

Hearing the participants' feedback, I am pleased to share with you that the event was considered to be a good opportunity to raise awareness of both the findings and the issue in general. I am also pleased to inform you that across the EU many other national events on the same issue took place. These additional events brought together experts and policy makers to contextualise the survey findings in a national setting, to help bring some of the survey's conclusions home to where change is most needed.

FRA will continue to promote the use of the survey results for policy change. This will be achieved together with other institutions such as the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Council of Europe, and the European Institute for Gender

Morten Kjaerum, Director

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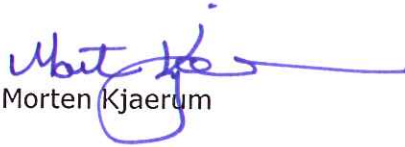
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Equality (EIGE). FRA will also work in close cooperation with Member States and civil society organisations to help combat violence against women.

I would finally express my wish for continuous fruitful cooperation in the future and wish you all the best for remaining time of the Hellenic Presidency of the Council of the EU. Once again I thank you for your support throughout the event.

Yours sincerely,



Morten Kjaerum

CC:

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, EU Law Division, Athens, Greece
- Permanent Representation of Greece to the European Union, Brussels, Belgium

Morten Kjaerum, Director

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