



Brussels, 12.5.2026  
COM(2026) 236 final

2026/0116 (NLE)

Proposal for a

## **COUNCIL DECISION**

**on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, at its 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, on conclusions addressed to certain Parties on their implementation of that Convention and on the election of members of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, with regard to matters related to judicial cooperation in criminal matters, asylum and non-refoulement**

## **EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

### **1. SUBJECT MATTER OF THE PROPOSAL**

This proposal concerns the decision establishing the position to be taken on the Union's behalf, at the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee of the Parties ('CoP' or 'the Committee') of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence ('the Istanbul Convention' or 'the Convention'), on 2 June 2026. The position concerns (1) the envisaged adoption by the Committee of nine draft conclusions addressed to nine Parties on their implementation of the Convention, and (2) the envisaged election of five members of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence ('GREVIO').

### **2. CONTEXT OF THE PROPOSAL**

#### **2.1. The Istanbul Convention**

The Istanbul Convention lays down a comprehensive and harmonised set of rules to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence in Europe and beyond. The Convention entered into force on 1 August 2014.

The EU signed the Convention in June 2017 and completed the accession procedure with the deposit of two instruments of approval on 28 June 2023, triggering the entry into force of the Convention for the EU on 1 October 2023. The EU has acceded to the Convention as regards matters falling within its exclusive competence, namely with regard to matters related to institutions and public administration of the Union<sup>1</sup> and with regard to matters related to judicial cooperation in criminal matters, asylum and non-refoulement<sup>2</sup>. All EU Member States have signed the Convention and 22 have ratified it<sup>3</sup>.

#### **2.2. The Committee of the Parties**

The CoP<sup>4</sup> is composed of the representatives of the Parties to the Convention. Parties must endeavour to nominate, as their representatives, experts of the highest possible rank in the field of preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence<sup>5</sup>. The tasks entrusted to the CoP are listed in Rule 1 of its Rules of Procedure<sup>6</sup>. On 1 October 2023 the EU became a Party to the Convention, and, as such, a member of the CoP (Article 67(1) of the Convention).

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<sup>1</sup> Council Decision (EU) 2023/1075 of 1 June 2023 on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence with regard to institutions and public administration of the Union, OJ L 143 I, 2.6.2023, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2023/1075/oj>.

<sup>2</sup> Council Decision (EU) 2023/1076 of 1 June 2023 on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence with regard to matters related to judicial cooperation in criminal matters, asylum and non-refoulement, OJ L 143 I, 2.6.2023, p. 4, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2023/1076/oj>

<sup>3</sup> Status of ratifications on 27 April 2026: AT (2013); BE (2016); CY (2017); DE (2017); DK (2014); IE (2019); EL (2018); ES (2014); EE (2017) FI (2015); FR (2014); HR (2018); IT (2013); LU (2018); MT (2014); NL (2015); PL (2015); PT (2013); RO (2016); SI (2015); SV (2014), LV (2023).

<sup>4</sup> [Committee of the Parties - Istanbul Convention Action against violence against women and domestic violence \(coe.int\)](http://www.coe.int/t/t09/Convention/Action%20against%20violence%20against%20women%20and%20domestic%20violence/Committee%20of%20the%20Parties%20-%20Istanbul%20Convention%20Action%20against%20violence%20against%20women%20and%20domestic%20violence%20(coe.int)/)

<sup>5</sup> Rule 2.1.b of the Rules of Procedures of the Committee of the Parties. Document IC-CP(2015)2, adopted on 4 May 2015

### **2.3. The monitoring mechanism of the Istanbul Convention**

The Istanbul Convention establishes a monitoring mechanism to ensure its effective implementation by the Parties<sup>6</sup>. The purpose is to assess how the Convention is put into practice and to provide guidance to the Parties. The monitoring mechanism consists of two distinct but interacting bodies: an independent expert body (the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence ‘GREVIO’) and the CoP.

GREVIO is an independent group of experts tasked with monitoring the Convention’s implementation on a country-by-country basis, in accordance with Article 66(1) of the Convention. The monitoring procedure is set out in Article 68 of the Convention. In accordance with Article 68(1) of the Convention, new Parties are required to submit a report (based on a questionnaire prepared by GREVIO) that details the legislative and other measures they have taken to give effect to the Convention. GREVIO prepares a report on the measures taken by that Party concerned to implement the Convention, and makes suggestions and proposals on how that Party may deal with problems that have been identified<sup>7</sup>.

The CoP, based on GREVIO’s report and in accordance with Article 68(12) of the Convention, may adopt recommendations addressed to the Party concerned on the implementation of the Convention and set a deadline for the Party to submit a response on their implementation of the recommendations. Based on this provision, the CoP has been adopting recommendations to Parties which differentiate between actions that should be taken as soon as possible, with a requirement to report back within a three-year period, and actions that while important, do not carry the same level of immediacy. At the end of the three-year period, the Party must report back to the CoP on the progress made in implementing the recommendations that were addressed to it. On the basis of this information, and any additional information obtained, the secretariat of the Committee<sup>8</sup> prepares the conclusions on the implementation of the recommendations in relation to each Party under review, which the CoP adopts.

### **2.4. The election of GREVIO members**

In line with Article 66 of the Convention, GREVIO is composed of 15 members. Its members are elected by the CoP from among candidates nominated by the Parties for a term of office of four years, renewable once. GREVIO members are chosen from among nationals of the Parties, considering a gender and geographical balance, as well as multidisciplinary expertise.

The Istanbul Convention entrusted the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (CoM) with determining the procedure for electing the members of GREVIO. On 19 November 2014, the CoM adopted Resolution CM/Res(2014)43 on rules of the election procedure of the members of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO)<sup>9</sup> (CoM Resolution). GREVIO adopted its own Rules of Procedure in 2015<sup>10</sup>.

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<sup>6</sup> Article 1(2) of the Istanbul Convention.

<sup>7</sup> Article 68(10) of the Istanbul Convention.

<sup>8</sup> The applicable procedure for supervising the implementation and the reporting is defined in the ‘Framework for supervising the implementation of the recommendations addressed to state parties’, adopted by the CoP on 13 April 2021, IC-CP/Inf(2021)2. 10 Contained in document IC-CP(2024)10 rev.

<sup>9</sup> [CM/Res\(2014\)43](#)

<sup>10</sup> [Rules of Procedure \(amended\)](#)

During the CoP meeting on 2 June 2026, five new GREVIO members are expected to be elected. They will hold office from 1 September 2026 until 31 August 2030. The elections will be organised in successive rounds. Each Party, including the EU, will have as many votes per round as there are seats remaining to be filled on GREVIO. Accordingly, in the first round, each Party may cast five votes. If one member is elected in that round, each Party may cast four votes in the second round, and so on. The rounds will continue until five GREVIO members are elected by a majority of the valid votes cast.

On 21 April 2026, the CoP secretariat shared, in document IC-CP(2026)2, the names and curricula vitae of the candidates nominated by the Parties for the election scheduled on 2 June 2026. The document indicates that 13 Parties have nominated 15 candidates for the 5 available spots. Out of the 13 nominating countries, 11 are EU Member States.

### **3. THE ENVISAGED ACTS TO BE ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE PARTIES**

#### **3.1. The nine draft conclusions**

On 2 June 2026, during its 20th meeting, it is foreseen that the CoP will proceed with the adoption of the following nine draft conclusions (the ‘draft conclusions’):

- (1) Conclusions on the implementation of recommendations in respect of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted by the Committee of the Parties, contained in document IC-CP(2026)4 prov.
- (2) Conclusions on the implementation of recommendations in respect of Cyprus adopted by the Committee of the Parties, contained in document IC-CP(2026)5 prov.
- (3) Conclusions on the implementation of recommendations in respect of Estonia adopted by the Committee of the Parties, contained in document IC-CP(2026)6 prov.
- (4) Conclusions on the implementation of recommendations in respect of Georgia adopted by the Committee of the Parties, contained in document IC-CP(2026)7 prov.
- (5) Conclusions on the implementation of recommendations in respect of Germany adopted by the Committee of the Parties, contained in document IC-CP(2026)8 prov.
- (6) Conclusions on the implementation of recommendations in respect of Iceland adopted by the Committee of the Parties, contained in document IC-CP(2026)9 prov.
- (7) Conclusions on the implementation of recommendations in respect of Norway adopted by the Committee of the Parties, contained in document IC-CP(2026)10 prov.
- (8) Conclusions on the implementation of recommendations in respect of Romania adopted by the Committee of the Parties, contained in document IC-CP(2026)11 prov.
- (9) Conclusions on the implementation of recommendations in respect of Switzerland adopted by the Committee of the Parties, contained in document IC-CP(2026)12 prov.

### 3.2. The envisaged election of five GREVIO members

On 2 June 2026, during its 20th meeting, it is foreseen that the CoP will proceed with the election of five GREVIO members who will take up office as of 1 September 2026 until 31 August 2030.

### 3.3. The envisaged nine draft conclusions of the CoP

The draft conclusions concern the implementation of provisions of the Convention which relate to judicial cooperation in criminal matters, such as matters on the protection of victims and support for victims of violence against women and domestic violence, and the implementation of provisions on asylum and non-refoulement. These matters are covered by the Union acquis, in particular the Directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence<sup>11</sup>, the Victims' Rights Directive<sup>12</sup>, the Qualification Regulation<sup>13</sup>, the Asylum Procedures Regulation<sup>14</sup>, the Reception Conditions Directive<sup>15</sup> and the Family Reunification Directive<sup>16</sup>. They fall within the EU's exclusive competence insofar as the relevant provisions of the Convention may affect common rules or alter their scope within the meaning of Article 3(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). As the envisaged acts are capable of decisively influencing the content of Union law in that they may affect the interpretation of relevant provisions of the Convention in the future, it is appropriate to establish the position to be taken on the Unions behalf in the CoP with regard to matters related to judicial cooperation in criminal matters, asylum and non-refoulement.

The draft conclusions on matters falling within the competence of the Union are in line with the Union's objectives, policies and the legal framework in the areas of judicial cooperation in criminal matters, asylum and non-refoulement and do not raise any concerns with respect to Union law. It is therefore proposed that the Union does not object to the adoption of the draft conclusions at the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CoP.

### 3.4. The envisaged election of five GREVIO members

As a member of the CoP, the EU holds five votes in the upcoming election of five GREVIO members at the CoP meeting on 2 June 2026. The members will be elected by the CoP from the 15 candidates that have been nominated by 13 Parties.

Out of the 13 nominating Parties, 11 are EU Member States. All nominated candidates demonstrate extensive multidisciplinary experience in the area of combating violence against

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<sup>11</sup> Directive 2024/1385 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 on combating violence against women and domestic violence (OJ L, 2024/1385, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1385/o>).

<sup>12</sup> Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA (OJ L 315, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2012/29/oj>).

<sup>13</sup> Regulation (EU) 2024/1347 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 on standards for the qualification of third-country nationals or stateless persons as beneficiaries of international protection, for a uniform status for refugees or for persons eligible for subsidiary protection and for the content of the protection granted, amending Council Directive 2003/109/EC and repealing Directive 2011/95/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council, OJ L, 2024/1347, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1347/oj>).

<sup>14</sup> Regulation 2024/1348 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a common procedure for international protection in the Union and repealing Directive 2013/32/EU (OJ L, 2024/1348, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1348/oj>).

<sup>15</sup> Directive 2024/1346 EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 laying down standards for the reception of applicants for international protection (OJ L, 2024/1346, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1346/oj>).

<sup>16</sup> Directive 2003/86 of 22 September 2003 on the right to family reunification (OJ L 251, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2003/86/oj>).

women and domestic violence, as outlined in document IC-CP(2026)2. It is proposed that the position of the EU should be to abstain in the elections.

## **4. LEGAL BASIS**

### **4.1. Procedural legal basis**

#### *4.1.1. Principles*

Article 218(9) TFEU provides for decisions establishing ‘the positions to be adopted on the Union’s behalf in a body set up by an agreement, when that body is called upon to adopt acts having legal effects, with the exception of acts supplementing or amending the institutional framework of the agreement.’ The concept of ‘acts having legal effects’ includes acts that have legal effects by virtue of the rules of international law governing the body in question. It also includes instruments that do not have a binding effect under international law, but that are ‘capable of decisively influencing the content of the legislation adopted by the EU legislature’<sup>17</sup>.

#### *4.1.2. Application to the present case*

The CoP is a body set up by the Istanbul Convention. The envisaged conclusions which the CoP is called upon to adopt, as well as the decision to abstain in the election of GREVIO members, constitute acts having legal effects. The envisaged acts are capable of decisively influencing the content of Union law, because they may affect the interpretation of the relevant provisions of the Istanbul Convention in the future. Therefore, the procedural legal basis for the proposed decision is Article 218(9) TFEU.

### **4.2. Substantive legal basis**

#### *4.2.1. Principles*

The substantive legal basis for a decision under Article 218(9) TFEU depends primarily on the objective and content of the envisaged act in respect of which a position is taken on the Union’s behalf. If the envisaged act pursues two aims or has two components and if one of those aims or components is identifiable as the main one, whereas the other is merely incidental, the decision under Article 218(9) TFEU must be founded on a single substantive legal basis, namely that required by the main or predominant aim or component.

With regard to an envisaged act that simultaneously pursues a number of objectives, or that has several components, which are inseparably linked without one being incidental to the other, the substantive legal basis of a decision under Article 218(9) TFEU will have to include, exceptionally, the various corresponding legal bases.

#### *4.2.2. Application to the present case*

As regards the substantive legal basis, the EU has acceded to the Istanbul Convention as regards matters falling within its exclusive competence, namely with regard to matters related to institutions and public administration of the Union<sup>18</sup> and with regard to matters

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<sup>17</sup> Judgment of the Court of Justice of 7 October 2014, *Germany v Council*, C-399/12, ECLI:EU:C:2014:2258, paragraphs 61 to 64.

<sup>18</sup> Council Decision (EU) 2023/1075 of 1 June 2023 on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence with regard to institutions and public administration of the Union (OJ L 143 I, 2.6.2023, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2023/1075/OJ>).

related to judicial cooperation in criminal matters, asylum and non-refoulement<sup>19</sup>. The EU's accession to the Istanbul Convention was split into two separate Council decisions to take into account the special position of Denmark and Ireland with respect to Title V TFEU. Consequently, the decision establishing the position to be taken on the Union's behalf in the CoP also needs to be split into two decisions, when the relevant conclusions concern both matters.

The envisaged acts pursue objectives and have components in the area of judicial cooperation in criminal matters (Article 82(2) and Article 84 TFEU), as well as on asylum and non-refoulement (Articles 78(2) TFEU). They are inseparably linked without one being incidental to the other. Therefore, the substantive legal basis for the proposed decision comprises the following provisions: Article 78(2), Article 82(2) and Article 84 TFEU.

#### **4.3. Conclusion**

The legal basis of the proposed decision should be Article 78(2), Article 82(2) and Article 84, in conjunction with Article 218(9) TFEU.

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<sup>19</sup> Council Decision (EU) 2023/1076 of 1 June 2023 on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence with regard to matters related to judicial cooperation in criminal matters, asylum and non-refoulement (OJ L 143 I, 2.6.2023, p. 4, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2023/1076/OJ>).

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## COUNCIL DECISION

**on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, at its 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, on conclusions addressed to certain Parties on their implementation of that Convention and on the election of members of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, with regard to matters related to judicial cooperation in criminal matters, asylum and non-refoulement**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 78(2), Article 82(2) and Article 84, in conjunction with Article 218(9) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Whereas:

- (1) The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence ('the Convention') was concluded by the Union by means of Council Decision (EU) 2023/1075<sup>20</sup> with regard to institutions and public administration of the Union, and by means of Council Decision (EU) 2023/1076<sup>21</sup> with regard to matters related to judicial cooperation in criminal matters, asylum and non-refoulement, insofar as such matters fall within the exclusive competence of the Union, and entered into force for the Union on 1 October 2023.
- (2) Pursuant to Article 66(1) of the Convention, the Group of experts on action against violence against women and domestic violence ('GREVIO') is to monitor the implementation of the Convention by the Parties to the Convention (the 'Parties'). In accordance with Article 68(11) of the Convention, GREVIO is to adopt its report and conclusions concerning the measures taken by the Party concerned to implement the provisions of the Convention.
- (3) The Committee of the Parties (the 'Committee') adopts recommendations addressed to the Party concerned, in accordance with Article 68(12) of the Convention, on the basis of the report and conclusions of GREVIO. Such recommendations distinguish between measures to be taken as soon as possible, with a requirement to report back to the Committee within a three-year period, and measures which, while important, do not

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<sup>20</sup> Council Decision (EU) 2023/1076 of 1 June 2023 on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence with regard to matters related to judicial cooperation in criminal matters, asylum and non-refoulement (OJ L 143 I, 2.6.2023, p. 4, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2023/1076/OJ>).

<sup>21</sup> Council Decision (EU) 2023/1076 of 1 June 2023 on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence with regard to matters related to judicial cooperation in criminal matters, asylum and non-refoulement (OJ L 143 I, 2.6.2023 p. 4), [Decision - 2023/1076 - EN - EUR-Lex](#).

require the same level of immediacy. At the end of that three-year period, the Party must report back to the Committee on the measures taken, within 10 specific areas of the Convention. Based on that report, and any additional information, the Committee is to adopt conclusions on the implementation of the recommendations, prepared by the secretariat of the Committee.

- (4) The Committee, during its 20<sup>th</sup> meeting on 2 June 2026, is expected to adopt the following draft conclusions, on the implementation of the Convention by nine Parties (respectively the ‘draft conclusions’):
- (1) Conclusions on the implementation of recommendations in respect of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted by the Committee of the Parties, contained in document IC-CP(2026)4 prov.
  - (2) Conclusions on the implementation of recommendations in respect of Cyprus adopted by the Committee of the Parties, contained in document IC-CP(2026)5 prov.
  - (3) Conclusions on the implementation of recommendations in respect of Estonia adopted by the Committee of the Parties, contained in document IC-CP(2026)6 prov.
  - (4) Conclusions on the implementation of recommendations in respect of Georgia adopted by the Committee of the Parties, contained in document IC-CP(2026)7 prov.
  - (5) Conclusions on the implementation of recommendations in respect of Germany adopted by the Committee of the Parties, contained in document IC-CP(2026)8 prov.
  - (6) Conclusions on the implementation of recommendations in respect of Iceland adopted by the Committee of the Parties, contained in document IC-CP(2026)9 prov.
  - (7) Conclusions on the implementation of recommendations in respect of Norway adopted by the Committee of the Parties, contained in document IC-CP(2026)10 prov.
  - (8) Conclusions on the implementation of recommendations in respect of Romania adopted by the Committee of the Parties, contained in document IC-CP(2026)11 prov.
  - (9) Conclusions on the implementation of recommendations in respect of Switzerland adopted by the Committee of the Parties, contained in document C-CP(2026)12 prov.
- (5) The draft conclusions concern the implementation of provisions of the Convention which relate to judicial cooperation in criminal matters, such as matters relating to the protection and support of victims of violence against women and domestic violence. The draft conclusions also concern the implementation of provisions of the Convention relating to asylum and non-refoulement. Those matters are covered by the Union acquis, in particular Council Directive 2003/86/EC<sup>22</sup>, Directives 2012/29/EU<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> Council Directive 2003/86/EC of 22 September 2003 on the right to family reunification (OJ L 251, 3.10.2003, p. 12, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2003/86/oj>).

<sup>23</sup> Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, and replacing Council

(EU) 2024/1346<sup>24</sup> and (EU) 2024/1385<sup>25</sup> of the European Parliament and of the Council, and Regulations (EU) 2024/1347<sup>26</sup> and (EU) 2024/1348 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>27</sup>.

- (6) The envisaged acts will have legal effects, as they are capable of decisively influencing the content of Union law in that they could affect the interpretation of relevant provisions of the Convention in the future. It is therefore appropriate to establish the position to be taken on the Union's behalf in the Committee for matters related to judicial cooperation in criminal matters, asylum and non-refoulement.
- (7) It should be noted that conclusions relating to certain articles of the Convention fall only partly within the Union's competence. Regarding those articles, this decision should be without prejudice to Member States' competence. In particular, as regards recommendations on Articles 49 and 50 of the Convention, this decision should not affect Member States' competence on the internal organisation and administration of their justice systems; and as regards recommendations on Article 31 of the Convention, this decision should be without prejudice to Member States' competence in the area of family law.
- (8) As regards Bosnia and Herzegovina, the draft conclusions on its implementation of the Convention include the need to: harmonise policies and measures taken to implement the Convention by ensuring they cover all forms of violence against women and all parts of the state territory and that they are independently monitored and evaluated (Article 7 of the Convention); streamline the number of existing coordinating bodies and ensure sufficient financial resources (Article 10 of the Convention); pursue efforts to collect systematic, comparable and disaggregated data from all relevant resources (Article 11 of the Convention), ensure that emergency barring orders are issued quickly in situations of immediate danger and can extend to the victim's children and that there are no gaps between orders (Article 52 and 53 of the Convention); and enable migrant women who are victims of violence covered by the Convention to apply for an autonomous residence permit (Article 59 of the Convention). As these draft conclusions are in line with the Union's policies and objectives in the area of judicial cooperation in criminal matters, asylum and non-refoulement and do not raise any concerns with respect to Union law, the position of the Union should be to not object to their adoption.

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Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA (OJ L 315, 14.11.2012, p. 57-73, <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2012/29/OJ>).

<sup>24</sup> Directive (EU) 2024/1346 EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 laying down standards for the reception of applicants for international protection (OJ L, 2024/1346, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1346/OJ>).

<sup>25</sup> Directive (EU) 2024/1385 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 on combating violence against women and domestic violence (OJ L, 2024/1385, 24.5.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1385/oj>).

<sup>26</sup> Regulation (EU) 2024/1347 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 on standards for the qualification of third-country nationals or stateless persons as beneficiaries of international protection, for a uniform status for refugees or for persons eligible for subsidiary protection and for the content of the protection granted, amending Council Directive 2003/109/EC and repealing Directive 2011/95/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council, OJ L, 2024/1347, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1347/oj>).

<sup>27</sup> Regulation (EU) 2024/1348 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 establishing a common procedure for international protection in the Union and repealing Directive 2013/32/EU (OJ L, 2024/1348, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1348/oj>)

- (9) As regards Cyprus, the draft conclusions on its implementation of the Convention include the need to: ensure that the provisions of the Convention are implemented without discrimination (Article 4 of the Convention); pursue efforts to collect systematic, comparable and disaggregated data from all relevant resources (Article 11 of the Convention); enable the competent authorities to evict a perpetrator of domestic violence from the shared residence in situations of immediate danger and ensure that such orders are monitored and enforced, and that sanctions for breaches are effectively applied in practice (Article 52 and 53 of the Convention); and develop and implement guidelines on gender-sensitive reception procedures and on the prevention of gender-based violence against women and girls in asylum accommodation (Article 60 of the Convention). As these draft conclusions are in line with the Union's policies and objectives in the area of judicial cooperation in criminal matters, asylum and non-refoulement and do not raise any concerns with respect to Union law, the position of the Union should be to not object to their adoption.
- (10) As regards Estonia, the draft conclusions on its implementation of the Convention include the need to: ensure that relevant policies and measures address all forms of violence against women covered by the Convention and are implemented based on a gendered understanding of violence and that their impact is being evaluated (Article 7 of the Convention); ensure that due considerations is given to the safety of women victims of domestic violence and their children in custody and visitation proceedings (Article 31 of the Convention); and ensure that the legal framework and practice concerning emergency barring orders are in line with the Convention (Article 52 of the Convention). As these draft conclusions are in line with the Union's policies and objectives in the area of judicial cooperation in criminal matters and do not raise any concerns with respect to Union law, the position of the Union should be to not object to their adoption.
- (11) As regards Georgia, the draft conclusions on its implementation of the Convention include the need to: ensure that all relevant policies and measures implement a gendered understanding of violence and that their impact is subject to systematic evaluation (Article 7 of the Convention); ensure that women's rights organisations are provided with adequate and sustainable financing and are being consulted regularly (Article 9 of the Convention); ensure that institutionalised structures are in place for coordination and cooperation between relevant actors to ensure a multi-agency, coordinated response to all forms of violence covered by the Convention (Article 18 of the Convention); expand the number and capacity of shelters and ensure the existence of same-sex shelters (Article 23 of the Convention) and ensure that criminal liability for rape can be established without unnecessary procedures or practices that may lead to the re-traumatisation of victims (Article 49 and 50 of the Convention). As these draft conclusions are in line with the Union's policies and objectives in the area of judicial cooperation in criminal matters and do not raise any concerns with respect to Union law, the position of the Union should be to not object to their adoption.
- (12) As regards Germany, the draft conclusions on its implementation of the Convention include the need to: adopt nation-wide definitions in line with the Convention (Article 3 of the Convention); ensure coordination and cooperation between all relevant actors in implementing policies and measures to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women and domestic violence, and provide a multi-agency and coordinated response without discrimination (Article 7 of the Convention); and to ensure that all relevant sectors collect disaggregated data (Article 11 of the Convention). As these draft conclusions are in line with the Union's policies and objectives in the area of

judicial cooperation in criminal matters and do not raise any concerns with respect to Union law, the position of the Union should be to not object to their adoption.

- (13) As regards Iceland, the draft conclusions on its implementation of the Convention include the need to: ensure that the national coordinating body is given a clear mandate to fulfil its functions and provided with dedicated resources (Article 10 of the Convention); and to reinforce prosecutorial and investigative capacity in relation to all forms of violence against women and ensure systematic and gender-sensitive risk assessment (Article 49, 50 and 51 of the Convention). As these draft conclusions are in line with the Union's policies and objectives in the area of judicial cooperation in criminal matters and do not raise any concerns with respect to Union law, the position of the Union should be to not object to their adoption.
- (14) As regards Norway, the draft conclusions on its implementation of the Convention include the need to: ensure that national policy documents are well-coordinated and provide a holistic response to all forms of violence against women and domestic violence (Article 7 of the Convention); ensure that the data collected by relevant stakeholders are disaggregated (Article 11 of the Convention); and to take measures to ensure that competent authorities can order a perpetrator of domestic violence to vacate the residence of the victim in situations of immediate danger and to reduce the processing time for orders (Article 52 of the Convention). As these draft conclusions are in line with the Union's policies and objectives in the area of judicial cooperation in criminal matters and do not raise any concerns with respect to Union law, the position of the Union should be to not object to their adoption.
- (15) As regards Romania, the draft conclusions on its implementation of the Convention include the need to: improve the application of the Convention to all forms of violence covered by the Convention, ensure the provisions of the Convention are implemented without discrimination, take measures to align relevant legislation with the definition of domestic violence, and introduce a gender perspective into Romania's Domestic Violence Law (Article 3 and 4 of the Convention); ensure coordination and cooperation between all relevant actors in implementing policies and measures to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic (Article 7 of the Convention); ensure appropriate financial resources for the implementation of relevant policies and measures and stable and sustainable funding for women's NGOs supporting victims (Article 8 of the Convention); and ensure the collection of disaggregated data (Article 11 of the Convention). As these draft conclusions are in line with the Union's policies and objectives in the area of judicial cooperation in criminal matters and do not raise any concerns with respect to Union law, the position of the Union should be to not object to their adoption.
- (16) As regards Switzerland, the draft conclusions on its implementation of the Convention include the need to: ensure a common understanding of violence against women in accordance with the Convention and take efforts to address and combat violence against victims exposed to intersectional discrimination (Article 3 and 4 of the Convention); ensure appropriate funding for relevant policies and measures and sustainable funding for organisations providing specialist support services to women victims of violence (Article 8 of the Convention); continue efforts to improve the collection of disaggregated data in the criminal justice sector (Article 11 of the Convention); ensure that victims and their children have access to specialist shelters throughout the country (Article 22 and 23); and to ensure the safety of victims and their children in the exercise of visitation rights (Article 31 of the Convention). As these draft conclusions are in line with the Union's policies and objectives in the area

of judicial cooperation in criminal matters and do not raise any concerns with respect to Union law, the position of the Union should be to not object to their adoption.

- (17) During the Committee meeting on 2 June 2026, five GREVIO members are expected to be elected. They will hold office from 1 September 2026 until 31 August 2030. Pursuant to Article 66 of the Convention, GREVIO is composed of 15 members. Its members must be elected by the Committee from among candidates nominated by the Parties for a term of office of four years, renewable once. GREVIO members are to be chosen from among nationals of the Parties, taking into account a gender and geographical balance, as well as multidisciplinary expertise.
- (18) As a member of the Committee, the Union is entitled to five votes during the envisaged election of five members. The five members are to be elected by the Committee from the 15 candidates that have been nominated by 13 Parties. Out of the 13 nominating countries, 11 are EU Member States. As all nominated candidates have extensive multidisciplinary experience in the area of combating violence against women and domestic violence, as outlined in document IC-CP(2026)2, the position of the EU should be to abstain in these elections.
- (19) Ireland is not bound by Council Decision (EU) 2023/1076 and is therefore not taking part in the adoption of this Decision.
- (20) In accordance with Articles 1 and 2 of Protocol No 22 on the position of Denmark, annexed to the Treaty on European Union and to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, Denmark is not taking part in the adoption of this Decision and is not bound by it or subject to its application,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

#### *Article 1*

The position to be taken on behalf of the Union within the Committee of the Parties established under Article 67 of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, at its 20th meeting, shall be:

1) to not object to the adoption of the following acts:

- (1) Conclusions on the implementation of recommendations in respect of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted by the Committee of the Parties, contained in document IC-CP(2026)4 prov.
- (2) Conclusions on the implementation of recommendations in respect of Cyprus adopted by the Committee of the Parties, contained in document IC-CP(2026)5 prov.
- (3) Conclusions on the implementation of recommendations in respect of Estonia adopted by the Committee of the Parties, contained in document IC-CP(2026)6 prov.
- (4) Conclusions on the implementation of recommendations in respect of Georgia adopted by the Committee of the Parties, contained in document IC-CP(2026)7 prov.
- (5) Conclusions on the implementation of recommendations in respect of Germany adopted by the Committee of the Parties, contained in document IC-CP(2026)8 prov.

- (6) Conclusions on the implementation of recommendations in respect of Iceland adopted by the Committee of the Parties, contained in document IC-CP(2026)9 prov.
- (7) Conclusions on the implementation of recommendations in respect of Norway adopted by the Committee of the Parties, contained in document IC-CP(2026)10 prov.
- (8) Conclusions on the implementation of recommendations in respect of Romania adopted by the Committee of the Parties, contained in document IC-CP(2026)11 prov.
- (9) Conclusions on the implementation of recommendations in respect of Switzerland adopted by the Committee of the Parties, contained in document C-CP(2026)12 prov.

2) to abstain in the election of five members of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence .

*Article 2*

This Decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

Done at Brussels,

*For the Council  
The President*