

Brussels, 08. 05. 2008  
D (2008) 696

Dear Ms Nowicka,

I would like to thank you for the letter you addressed me on the issue of sexual and reproductive health and rights. As you noticed in your letter, the Commission made a public statement at the hearing held by the FEMM Committee of the European Parliament where we highlighted the work of the Commission in this field.

With the Roadmap on equality between women and men, the Commission has reaffirmed its firm commitment on the promotion and achievement of gender equality both within and outside the European Union. The Commission is fully committed to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and cooperates actively with Member States to ensure its follow-up at EU level, through the development of indicators and Council conclusions. The indicators are based on specific reports and monitor progress in the EU Member States. The 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action in 2005 provided the EU an opportunity to reaffirm its commitment to the full implementation of the Platform with a declaration made by the EU ministers for gender equality in Luxembourg. This declaration can be found at the following website:

[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/events/2005/beijing\\_lux/ministerial\\_declaration\\_final\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/events/2005/beijing_lux/ministerial_declaration_final_en.pdf)

The Council adopted specific conclusions at its meeting of the 2-3 June 2005. These can be found at the following website:

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms\\_Data/docs/pressData/en/lsa/85263.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/lsa/85263.pdf)

I can reassure you that the Commission will continue to work actively with the EU Member States to promote gender equality and to implement the Beijing Platform for Action within and outside the EU.

Yours sincerely,



Ms Wanda NOVICKA  
Coordinator ASTRA  
Nowolipie 13/15  
00-150 Warsaw  
Poland