



**Statement by Lluís Maria de Puig
President of the Parliamentary Assembly
of the Council of Europe (APCE)**

**on the occasion of the
10th anniversary of the International Day
for the Elimination of Violence against Women
(25 November 2009)**

Bern, 20 November 2009

A few days hence, the world will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. In that connection the Parliamentary Assembly reasserts its undivided will to oppose outrages against the dignity and the life of women, and take every step to combat these violations of human rights, unconscionable in democratic societies.

At a time of globalisation, our attention is more specifically drawn to the situation of women migrants on whom violence is inflicted in their host countries and countries of origin. The Standing Committee meeting today in Bern is considering the increased risk of domestic violence run by migrant women. The scope for combating and preventing other forms of violence against migrant women, such as trafficking or forced marriages, will furthermore be discussed at the conference on "Migration and violence against women in Europe" to be organised by our Assembly in conjunction with the Inter-Parliamentary Union on 10 and 11 December 2009 at the French National Assembly.

Irrespective of her origin or background, any victim of gender-based violence residing in Europe must be able to receive protection and rehabilitation. In this context, the Assembly forcefully and resolutely perseveres with its commitment to promote the drafting of the future Council of Europe convention to prevent and combat violence against women, including domestic violence. In adopting a binding legal instrument, the Council of Europe would send out a strong political signal. It is time for impunity to end. We must act.