



Parliamentary Network *Women Free from Violence*  
*Réseau parlementaire pour « le droit des femmes de vivre sans violence »*

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## Regional Conference on violence against women and the Istanbul Convention

**Monday 25 November 2013**

**Bucharest, Romania**

**Camera Deputatilor  
Palatul Parlamentului**

**CONCEPT PAPER**

## 1. Background

On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Romanian Parliament and the Parliamentary Network “*Women Free from Violence*” of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe will organise a regional conference on the *Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence* (Istanbul Convention) in Bucharest on 25 November 2013.

The conference aims at raising awareness of the phenomenon of violence against women and signalling the political commitment of the Romanian and other parliaments to prevent it and counter it through an appropriate policy and a legislative framework.

The conference is open to parliamentarians from Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, the Republic of Moldova and Serbia, as well as representatives from governmental and non-governmental organisations, civil society and experts. It will highlight the added value of the Istanbul Convention and try to address possible obstacles to its signature and ratification by the countries concerned. As of 5 November, the Serbian parliament has completed the ratification process; Bulgaria, Hungary, Moldova and Romania have not yet signed the Convention.

## 2. Draft programme

9.00           **Registration of participants**

9.30           **Opening**

**Mr Valeriu Ştefan Zgonea**, President of the Chamber of Deputies, Romania

**Mr/ Ms...**, Government of Romania

**Ms Tina Acketoft**, Chairperson of Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination of the Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe

10.15 –10.45   **Session 1:     The Istanbul Convention and its added value**

**Ms Gordana Gasmi**, former representative to the Council of Europe Ad Hoc Committee for preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (CAHVIO), Serbia

Questions and answers

*Coffee break*

11.00 – 12.30   **Session 2:     Aligning legislation with the Istanbul Convention: situation in Romania and the region**

**Mr/Ms...**, member of the Romanian Parliament

**Ms Deniza Karadjova**, member of the Bulgarian Parliament and member of the Bulgarian delegation to PACE

**Ms Anna Magyar**, member of the Hungarian Parliament

**Ms Valentina Stratan**, member of the Moldovan Parliament

**Ms Marija Obradovic**, member of the Serbian Parliament

Discussion

*Lunch*

14.00 – 15.00 **Session 3: Focus on domestic and economic violence**

*Speaker:* **Ms Raluca Popa**, Gender Equality and Violence against Women Division, Council of Europe  
**Ms Elena Tudor**, head of the Directorate for Child Protection, Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly, Romania  
**Mr Corneliu Eftodi**, Program Manager of the Women's Economic Empowerment Program, UN Women Moldova

Discussion

15.00 – 15.30 **Conclusions by Ms Ana Birchall, member of the Romanian Parliament and of the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence**

### **3. Languages**

Interpretation and information material will be provided in Romanian and English.