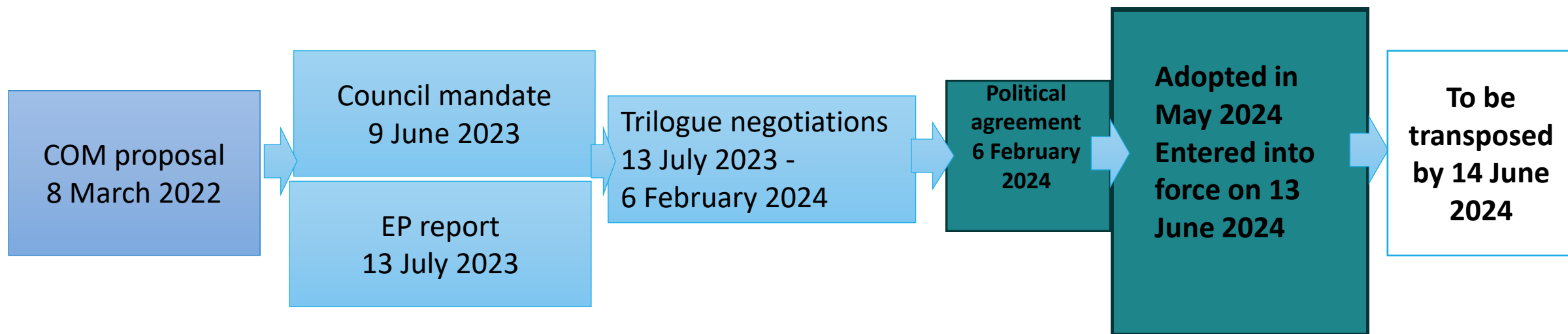




Directive on Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence

EESC Hearing 15 July 2024 – Violence against women
and domestic violence as a human rights issue

Where we come from and where we stand



Objectives

Comprehensive set of rights and measures applicable throughout the EU:

- to **reduce the prevalence** of violence against women and domestic violence in the EU
- to **protect and support victims**
- to ultimately ensure a **high level of security** and the full enjoyment of fundamental rights within the Union, including the **right to equal treatment and non-discrimination between women and men**

Overview

- Setting a **wide scope of application** (Chapter 1)
- **Criminalising certain forms of violence against women at EU-level** (Chapter 2)
- Providing for a robust set of rules to strengthen **victims' protection and facilitate access to justice** (Chapter 3)
- Providing a comprehensive set of **victim support** measures (Chapter 4)
- Requiring meaningful **measures of prevention** (Chapter 5)
- Ensuring efficient **coordination and cooperation** among the relevant actors (Chapter 6)
- Includes a strong **review clause**

A wide scope of application

Scope of application of Chapters 3 to 7: the measures of protection, access to justice, support, prevention, coordination and cooperation will benefit:

- Victims of the criminal offences defined in the Directive
- Victims of any form of violence against women and domestic violence criminalised under Union or national law
- Victims of violence against women and domestic violence, regardless of their gender

The EU-criminalisations

- Female Genital Mutilation (as self-standing crime)
- Forced marriage
- Cyber violence:
 - Non-consensual sharing of intimate images
 - Cyber stalking
 - Cyber harassment (including in the form of ‘cyberflashing’)
 - Cyber incitement to hatred or violence based on gender

Strengthened victims' protection

By responding to the specific needs of victims of violence against women and domestic violence. This includes:

- strengthened individual assessment of the victim's needs for protection and support
- timely and coordinated response to victims' requests for protection and support
- emergency barring, restraining and protection orders

Facilitated victims' access to justice

- Easier ways to report acts of violence (including online)
- Evidence on the victims' past sexual conduct permitted only if relevant and necessary
- Clear rules on the removal of illegal online content and preservation of evidence
- Compensation from offenders

Specialised support for victims

- Easily accessible specialist support for victims
- Specific specialist support for victims of
 - sexual violence
 - female genital mutilation and
 - sexual harassment at work
- Helplines
- Shelters and other interim accommodation
- Support and safety of children

Encompassing and meaningful prevention

- Preventive measures of violence against women and Domestic violence
- Specific measures to prevent rape and promotion of the central role of consent in sexual relationships
- Training and information to professionals likely to come into contact with victims
- Intervention programmes

Better coordination and cooperation at national and EU level

- Ensuring a multi-agency approach
- Ensuring cooperation at Union level
- Enhancing data collection

“Missed chances explained”

Rape based on lack of consent and few other frequent “asks”

Thank you!

Ending gender-based
violence (europa.eu)