



European network of legal experts in gender equality and non-discrimination

NEWS REPORT

Country:	Belgium
Title:	Ratification of the Istanbul Convention
Date:	24 June 2016
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<u>Context</u>	
Issue at stake:	Fighting all forms of gender based violence
Ground of discrimination:	Sex
Source:	Legislation
Field:	Other
Applicable law:	Council of Europe's Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence

Content

Policy development: On 1 March 2016, the Sovereign promulgated the Act which ratified the Council of Europe's Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, known as the Istanbul Convention. The Belgian ratification by the federal parliament required the previous assent of every one of the federate authorities, a process which started in 2013 and was completed in 2015. This ratification was done without any reservation as it will not entail any legislative changes.

The Act of 1 March 2016 was published in the *Moniteur belge/Belgisch Staatsblad* of 9 June 2016.

Key points of analysis: The Istanbul Convention is considered in Belgium as the most comprehensive tool to combat all forms of gender-based violence and was therefore taken as the frame of reference for the fifth National Action Plan concerning gender based violence, which was adopted in 2015 (NAP 2015-2019).

Given the federal structure of Belgium, the federal Institute for Equality of Women and Men ("Gender Institute") was designated officially on 11 April as the agency responsible for the coordination, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of measures and policies adopted throughout the country within the Convention's framework.

The Gender Institute will be supported by an inter-departmental group comprising representatives of the different executive authorities concerned (the federal, regional and Community governments) in the process of implementation, monitoring and reporting as required by the Convention.

Internet link source: www.juridat.be, accessed on 23 June 2016.