Strasbourg, 24 April 2009

CAHVIO (2009) 6

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON PREVENTING AND COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (CAHVIO)

Synopsis of the meeting report

First Meeting
6-8 April 2009

Document prepared by the
Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs

The Committee :

- decided to elect Ms Dubravka Šimonović (Croatia) and Mr Eric Ruelle (France) as Co-chairs. Given the special nature of the Committee which is mainly composed of national experts representing either the Ministry of Justice or the Ministry of Social Affairs/Gender Equality/Human Rights, the Committee considered it important that both these areas of expertise be represented by the chair on an equal footing;

- examined paragraph by paragraph the discussion paper prepared by the Secretariat ("Elements for discussion", CAHVIO (2009)3). It expressed its satisfaction with this document and suggested to re-organise and significantly expand it in certain areas. It thus decided to use this document as a basis for the interim report which the Committee is instructed to submit to the Committee of Ministers by 30 June 2009;

- agreed that the convention should be a human rights instrument with an independent monitoring mechanism focusing on violence against women, including domestic violence, and that the core of the convention would thus cover a wide range of forms of violence typically experienced by women;

- agreed that the chapter related to substantive criminal law should be reconsidered taking account of the discussions held during the meeting, in particular the necessity to make it clear that criminal offences are to be defined precisely and, in principle, presented in a gender-neutral manner;

- agreed that, as a matter of principle, one single convention on violence against women should be drafted, but considered that in addition to that instrument, possible additional protocols coud be prepared at a later stage, if appropriate, to cover other forms of domestic violence, such as violence against the elderly and against children;

- decided to hold its next meeting on 25-27 May 2009.