



Concluding remarks

135. The Council of Europe's Istanbul Convention and its monitoring mechanism provide a considerable contribution to global efforts to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence. Through its baseline evaluation reports, GREVIO contributes to the strengthening of national efforts to combat violence against women by giving advice to the authorities on legislative and policy developments. The reports provide an authoritative source of information on different aspects, identifying gaps, needs and good practices in the parties to the convention. Their relevance goes beyond the parties directly concerned and can serve as guidance to all other countries and actors involved, including those who are not yet parties to the Istanbul Convention.

136. GREVIO is pleased that 34 of the 47 Council of Europe member states have already ratified the convention, and another 11, as well as the European Union, have signed it. It also welcomes the interest expressed by some non-member states to adhere to the standards of the convention in the future. GREVIO very much hopes that those states that have not yet done so will soon set in motion the signature and ratification procedures. It also hopes that its evaluation reports and this first general report on its activities will serve to unequivocally demonstrate just how unfounded the concerns are that have slowed down, in some countries, the ratification processes.

137. This first report on GREVIO's activities sheds light on common trends, improvements and challenges emerging from the country monitoring process. It also emphasises the crucial importance of co-ordination between international organisations in the different types of activities carried out at regional and international level. GREVIO's action is mindful of the need to ensure consistency in the messages and to avoid any duplication of monitoring operations. The partnership developed in the context of what is now what is now the Platform of United Nations and regional independent expert mechanisms on the Elimination of Discrimination and Violence against Women, of which GREVIO is a member, is a tangible demonstration of the international commitment in this respect, with a view to achieving greater complementarity and synergies. GREVIO hopes that this platform will find ways to evolve into a sustainable institutionalised space for all independent monitoring mechanisms on violence against women and women's rights.