REPORT VISIT OF NICOLE AMELINE, FRENCH MINISTER FOR PARITY AND EQUALITY IN EMPLOYMENT TO THE EUROPEAN WOMEN’s LOBBY OFFICE
BRUSSELS - 12.10.2004

Present:
Nicole Ameline, French Minister for parity and Equality in Employment
Florence Richard, Counsellor to the Minister
Bernard Krynen, French Permanent Representation to the EU, Counsellor for Social Affairs
Mary Mc Phail: European Women's Lobby Secretary General
Cécile Gréboval: European Women’s Lobby Policy Co-ordinator

Report: Cécile Gréboval

On 12th October 2004 the EWL Secretariat had the honour to receive the visit of Mme Nicole AMELINE, French Minister for gender equality and her advisors.

Discussions concerned mainly the Beijing+10 in 2005 and the role that the European Union could play in relation to the review.

The Minister very strongly stressed the need for the EU to have a “strong voice” during the review and to give a “new momentum to gender equality issues” during the review at international level, which she sees as a “unique opportunity” to put gender issues higher on the agenda. She indicated that France wishes to create a new dynamic for the preparations of the work on the 10-year review pf the World Conference on Women in March 2005 at the UN, stressing the need for a strong political expression on women's rights.

On October 14th, while she participated in a meeting on the 10th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and development, Ms Ameline proposed the initiative «Partners for Beijing», in order to gather States and NGOs that wish to firmly affirm the challenges of the XXIth century in relation to women’s rights.

The issue of a new World Conference on Women was also discussed and the Minister expressed positive views towards the idea.

M. Ameline also stressed the need for the EU to play a strong role at global level in relation to poverty eradication and women and including a strong gender perspective within the UN Millennium Development Goals, also to be reviewed in 2005.

The Minister also highlighted some of the recent activities of her services in France in relation to gender equality, including a very innovative new “gender equality stamp” for enterprises. The label will be given to private enterprises, whose management is based on women’s empowerment and which gives a privileged place to gender equality in employment.

The EWL representatives had the opportunity to present the EWL report related to the Beijing review and related activities, as well as the EWL priorities for the coming years.
The meeting was an extremely fruitful occasion to exchange views and ideas in relation to women’s rights and future actions at European and international level.