Head of Delegation's visit to Colonia and Maldonado
On Monday, March 19, and Tuesday, March 20, the Head of the European Union Delegation to Uruguay, Karl-Otto König, will visit the cities of Colonia and Maldonado with the aim of strengthening the EU's ties to both Departments, getting to know the local socio-economic reality, and outlining the EU's objectives and activities in each Department. In the framework of these visits, the EU will carry out actions aimed at raising awareness of gender equality jointly with the local Governments.

On both visits, Ambassador König will first meet the Department Governor at the local Town Hall, with the objective of improving mutual understanding and establishing links for possible future joint ventures.

At noon he will inaugurate the urban intervention "A walk in her shoes", an activity to raise awareness of violence against women, which will be carried out continuously until 16:30. In Colonia the activity will take place in the Town Hall Esplanade, and in Maldonado at the San Fernando Plaza. This activity offers the public the chance of putting themselves in the place of those who have been victims of gender-based violence and listening to their stories (see detail below).

At 13:00 the Ambassador will have lunch with the Governor and representatives of both the private sector and local civil society, to better understand the challenges and achievements in each
Department.

At 15:00 p.m. the Ambassador will inaugurate the panel "Gender Equality, a commitment for all" (which in Colonia will be held at the House of Culture, and in Maldonado at the Town Hall), whose main objective is to offer a space for dialogue on the gender equality from a local perspective - addressing issues such as women's participation in politics and decision-making, their economic and social rights, and gender-based violence. Representatives from the National government, the local government and civil society will be on both panels, which are open to the population at large and will include a space for debate and exchange of ideas with all participants.

**Panel Programme:**

15:00 - 15:10 Remarks by the Head of the EU Delegation to Uruguay

15:10 - 15:50 Remarks by the invited panelists:

- Representative of the National Government
- Representative of the departmental government
- Representatives of civil society

16:00 - 16:30 Space for discussion and exchange with all participants.

**Information on the activity "A walk in their shoes":**

The urban intervention "A walk in their shoes" is a different way of approaching the theme of gender-based violence. Visitors are invited to experience quite literally what it is like to be in the shoes of women who have experienced gender violence. Andrea, Mariana, Jessica, Carina, Cristina and Caroline narrate their stories which they want to share with those who will listen.

The EU Delegation to Uruguay is carrying out this intervention around the country. The European Union is firmly committed to the eradication of gender-based violence and the achievement of gender equality, to ensure the rights of women and girls to live a life free of violence, more dignified and more prosperous. It is estimated that more than a third of women worldwide have suffered physical and/or sexual gender violence at some point in their lives. But violence does not come from a position of strength; it is more an expression of weakness. And it thrives because it often happens in the dark, unseen and unmentioned. Thus, this intervention tries to shed light on the issue in order to bring it out of the darkness, breaking the walls of silence.

The population is invited to join this initiative, listening to these women's stories in the voice of the protagonists themselves while walking in their shoes.

www.eeas.europa.eu

**Source URL:**