



FOCUS

Beijing +20 - 2015's impetus for women's rights and gender equality



Dear Reader,

Following the 59th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, decision makers will concentrate this year on Addis Ababa, New York and Paris for the adoption of new sustainable development goals, their financing, and an international agreement to tackle climate change. This context

offers important opportunities to anchor women's empowerment firmly in the post 2015 agenda. As the in-depth analysis 'Evaluation of the Beijing Platform for Action +20 and the opportunities for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women in the post-2015 development agenda' underlines, the EP should seek at these conferences to achieve women's participation in decision-making at all levels, adequate financing for gender equality, strong accountability mechanisms, and a "gender data revolution" for better policy outcomes for men and women alike.

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Chair of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality*

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Innovative schools - teaching & learning in the digital era

CULT

Workshop

4 May 2015 - 15.00 to 17.30 - ASP 3G3

China's foreign policy and external relations

AFET

Study presentation

26 May 2015 - 16.00 to 17.15 - JAN 2Q2

Competition policy in international agreements

ECON

Workshop

28 May 2015 - 9.00 to 12.00

Workshop on judicial experts

JURI

Workshop

17 June 2015

FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

| Committee | Title | Publication date |
|-----------|--|------------------|
| AFET | Culture and science diplomacy in the relations between the EU and Asia | April 2015 |
| ENVI | US regulations and policymaking in ENVI fields | April 2015 |
| AFCO | The EP as a driving force of European constitutionalisation | May 2015 |
| CONT | Financing the EU budget: what does the academic world tell us? | May 2015 |
| CULT | Youth Education & Entrepreneurship | May 2015 |

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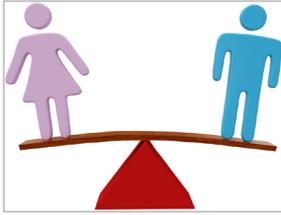


HIGHLIGHTS

2015: Action for women's rights and gender equality

Policy Department on Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs

March 2015



20 years after Beijing, shortcomings still prevail over achievements in the implementation of women's rights. The post-2015 framework could help to advance gender equality. The study reveals that 20 years after the Beijing Platform for Action, important challenges for the empowerment of women remain. In the post-2015 framework, a stand-alone goal for gender equality is needed as well as mainstreaming gender across all sustainable development goals, adequate financing and strong accountability.



Transparency and integrity in the EU institutions

Policy Department on Budgetary Affairs

February 2015



The "EU Integrity System" report from the Transparency International EU Office is "the first ever comprehensive review" of corruption and integrity risks in EU institutions. The briefing refers to a research study conducted by the Transparency International EU Office over a nine months period in 2013 and 2014. It stresses that EU institutions have adopted general policies and rules to prevent fraud and corruption, a good foundation in the EU system to support integrity and ethics.



Reforming the United Nations: state of play, ways forward

Policy Department on External Policies

March 2015



Overview of the United Nations reforms, past and present, in the key fields of its activities (political, structural, peace and security, socioeconomic and human rights). The UN 'reform agenda' touches upon all areas of its activities, including peace support, development and human rights, but also institutional issues, including budgetary and management reforms of the UN system. This paper takes stock of progress in key areas of reform and outlines possible ways forward.



Encouraging STEM studies for the labour market

Policy Department on Economic and Scientific Policy

March 2015



In spite of high unemployment rates, there is evidence of skills shortages in the STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) in many Member States. This document intends to provide an up-to-date overview of the labour market situation in STEM occupations and to analyse European and national approaches to encourage STEM uptake in relation to these labour market needs. The aim is to identify practices which help to increase the supply of STEM-skilled labour.



Modal share of freight transport to and from EU ports

Policy Department on Structural and Cohesion Policies

March 2015



The EU is highly dependent on seaports for trade with the rest of the world and within its Internal Market. This study sheds light on the modal share of port traffic in the EU. It brings together data on port traffic and its characteristics and analyses the various modes used to connect ports with final destinations of goods, including transshipment, short sea operations and inland ports.



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