

Celebration of International Women's Day 2009
European Parliament information actions and debates on 4-5 March 2009

Women and elections to the European Parliament

The electoral behaviour of women, their interests and expectations:
Equal opportunities at the heart of the forthcoming European elections?

Colloquium with media
4 March 2009, 15.00-18.30

European Parliament, Brussels
Salle Anna Lindh, PHS 1A002
Welcome from 14.15 at the entrance of building PHS, Press entrance
Interpretation: English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Greek. Passive Portuguese

Chair:

Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou, Vice-President of the European Parliament

Moderator:

Shirin Wheeler, BBC TV presenter, "The Record Europe"

15.00-15.30

Opening

Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou, Vice-President of the European Parliament
Margot Wallström, Vice-President of the European Commission

How do women perceive the European elections on 4-7 June 2009? What are their reasons for choosing to vote or abstaining? The forthcoming European elections are a good opportunity to debate these questions.

15.45

Eurobarometer poll: "Women and the European elections on 4-7 June 2009"

Presentation and analysis of the results

Analysis:

Susan Banducci, Professor, University of Exeter (UK)

[TNS Opinion, Representatives of Gallup]

The average turnout in European elections, less than 46% in 2004, has continued to fall since 1979. During this period, how have women voted? What are the hopes and concerns of those women answering the survey for the European Elections on 4-7 June 2009? The trends in the Flash Eurobarometer, carried out jointly by the European Parliament and the European Commission, as well as the socio-demographic analysis of previous Standard Eurobarometers will be presented in this colloquium and will set out various ways of interpreting these results.

Useful links: Eurobarometer Flash, Eurobarometer Standard and European Parliament

Equal opportunities: perspectives and suggestions for action

Angela Buttiglione, director, RAI 3 TG Regionali, Italy
Beatrix Campbell, writer and broadcaster, UK
Iriní Karanasopoulou, Political Editor, TA NEA, Greece
Pilar Martín, director, RNE-Radio 1, Spain
Angela Mills Wade, director, European Publishers Council, UK
Mercedes Riederer, Editor in Chief of Bavarian Rundfunk, Germany

Stories based on the realities of daily life

Access to school or work, working time, levels of pay, parental leave and the work-life balance, pension rights... has sufficient progress been made on equal opportunities? Does the legislation in force have a positive effect in practice? Speakers will comment on these issues based on their personal experience. They will explain their expectations concerning the European elections and the priorities that, according to them, should be at the top of the EU's agenda.

Political perspective and the role of the European Parliament

Members of the European Parliament – among others:
Astrid Lulling (EPP-ED, LU), Rapporteur for the "family pack"
Edite Estrela (PES, PT), Rapporteur for the "family pack"

Article 3 of the Treaty establishing the European Community sets out the obligation, for all policies concerned, "to eliminate inequalities, and to promote equality, between men and women." EU law in this area, for which the European Parliament legislates side by side with the Council of Ministers, is substantial. Does it still represent an unfinished edifice which needs to be completed for the benefit of women? Arguments will be put forward by a number of MEPs. Participation of EP rapporteurs for the "family pack", a major piece of legislation being discussed in the European Parliament:

18.15

Closing

Anna Záborská, President of the Committee on Women's rights and gender equality
Summary of the exchange of views and introduction to the seminar of 5 March whose theme will be "Women and the European elections"

18.30

Cocktail
Outside meeting room