

ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0059/10

pursuant to Rule 115 of the Rules of Procedure

by Zita Gurmai and Britta Thomsen, on behalf of the S&D Group, Ilda Figueiredo and Eva-Britt Svensson, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group, Antonyia Parvanova, on behalf of the ALDE Group, Marije Cornelissen, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
to the Commission

Subject: Charter for Women's Rights - follow up

The fact that the Commission has chosen to reiterate and strengthen its commitment to making equality between women and men a reality is a welcome development. The form chosen is a document entitled a 'Women's Charter' presented on the occasion of International Women's Day.

This document follows a commitment made to Parliament by Commission President Barroso to produce a women's charter, during discussions prior to his election for a second term in office. The document is additionally in commemoration of the 15th anniversary of the adoption of the Platform for Action at the Beijing UN World Conference on Women and of the 30th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against women. In summary, the document fills many roles and all of them important.

How does the Commission plan to involve the other EU institutions, civil society and other stakeholders in this initiative?

A recent Euro-barometer survey on gender equality showed that 62% of Europeans believe that gender inequality still exists in many areas of society. What will the Women's Charter do to tackle this perception of inequality?

How can the content of the Women's Charter be translated into measurable goals and clear targets?

As is customary, the Commission will continue to work on the basis of a five-year strategy for equality between women and men. The current 'roadmap' covered the period of 2006-2010.

How will the Commission's forthcoming five-year strategy for gender equality be concretely linked to the Women's Charter and how will the stakeholders be involved in this work?

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Forwarded: 10.05.2010

Deadline for reply: 17.05.2010