

## NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

### Gender equality must be central to the EU 2020 Strategy



Women's rights and gender equality are central to many topics and political dossiers - ranging from economic and financial policies to matters of criminal cooperation. Our work is a mixture of legislative and non-legislative dossiers, and we also try to maintain the committee as a coordinating and agenda setting space when it comes to gender equality. This is why our committee can look forward to a busy spring, with several upcoming votes and discussions on legislative as well as non-legislative reports. The Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality has also engaged in the debate on the future [EU 2020 strategy](#), highlighting the need for any forward-looking EU policy instrument to include specific actions and targets on gender equality, such as more and better care services for children and other dependents, fight against the gender pay gap, and address women's poverty and social security from a gender perspective. And of course we look forward to share these thoughts and continue discussions with all stakeholders that want to shape EU policies and promote gender equality.

Eva-Britt Svensson

### SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF WOMEN BELONGING TO ETHNIC MINORITY GROUPS

Consideration of draft report



Following the public hearing on 7 April on the same topic, the Rapporteur will now present her draft report to the Committee. The report aims to evaluate social integration policies in the EU for women belonging to

ethnic minority groups and to highlight where this works and where there are problems to help identify solution. The text is divided into three parts according to the following key aspects: role of integration policies in the EU, role of women in ethnic minorities, and gender equality policy.

Rapporteur: **Antonyia Parvanova** (ALDE)

### DEVELOPING THE JOB POTENTIAL OF A NEW SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

Consideration of draft opinion

The FEMM committee decided to draft an opinion to the report of the EMPL committee, with the aim to



highlight the gender aspects of the issue. The drafts person believes that gender equality should be a focal point during the transition to a new economy in order to address women's employment problems. The draft opinion emphasizes a.o. the

need to remove the barriers preventing more women to become entrepreneurs or self-employed, and also stresses the role of life-long learning in breaking down gender segregation in the labour market.

Draftswoman: **Britta Thomsen** (S-D)

#### 3-4 MAY – MEETING AGENDA IN BRIEF

- ⌚ Social integration of women belonging to ethnic minority groups – consideration of draft report
- ⌚ Developing the job potential of a new sustainable economy - consideration of draft opinion
- ⌚ European External Action Service - consideration of draft opinion
- ⌚ Implementation of the European legislation on Women's Rights and Gender Equality - presentation
- ⌚ European Protection Order - Presentation by the Spanish Presidency and the Commission
- ⌚ Exchange of views with Vice-President Reding
- ⌚ 2011 Draft Budget - consideration and adoption of draft opinion
- ⌚ Equal treatment between men and women engaged in an activity in a self-employed capacity - adoption of draft recommendation for second reading
- ⌚ Assessment of the results of the 2006-2010 Roadmap for Equality between women and men and forward looking recommendations - adoption of draft report
- ⌚ Gender aspects of the economic downturn and financial crisis - adoption of draft report
- ⌚ The role of minimum income in combating poverty and promoting an inclusive society in Europe - presentation

**Date:** Monday, 3 May, 15.00-17.00, Tuesday, 4 May 9.00-12.30 **Venue:** JAN 4Q2 (1st day) and ASP 3E2 (2nd day) meeting rooms

**Live web streaming of the meeting [here](#).**

#### Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality is responsible for:

- Definition, promotion and protection of women's rights in the Union and related Community measures;
- The promotion of women's rights in third countries;
- Equal opportunities policy, including equality between men and women with regard to labour market opportunities and treatment at work;
- The removal of all forms of discrimination based on sex;
- The implementation and further development of gender mainstreaming in all policy sectors;
- The follow-up and implementation of international agreements and conventions involving the rights of women;
- Information policy on women.

## EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE

Consideration of draft opinion



The draft opinion draws attention to the measures necessary to ensure a gender balanced setup and functioning of the [European External Action Service](#). Such measures include organisational

aspects which guarantee the integration of the gender dimension in all policy areas of the Service, a gender balanced distribution of posts at all levels, and the inclusion of concepts and methods for gender mainstreaming into the training of the staff.

Draftswoman: **Franziska Katharina Brantner** (Verts/ALE)

## EUROPEAN PROTECTION ORDER

Presentation by the Spanish Presidency and the Commission at a joint meeting with LIBE Committee

Victim protection has always been one of the main objectives of the EU in the area of freedom, security and justice. The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union marks a new stage in the construction of the area of freedom, security and justice. As protection of victims' rights - of which prevention of violence against women and girls constitutes a significant part, falls within the competence of both FEMM and LIBE committees, the two committees decided to closely cooperate to outline the priorities of the European Parliament on this issue in the framework of the procedure with joint committees. Due to the joint responsibility, this presentation will take place in form of a joint meeting with the Members of both committees.

Co-Rapporteurs: **Teresa Jiménez-Becerril Barrio** (EPP), **Carmen Romero López** (S-D)

## EQUAL TREATMENT BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN ENGAGED IN AN ACTIVITY IN A SELF-EMPLOYED CAPACITY

Adoption of draft recommendation for second reading



Following the consideration of the draft recommendation in committee on 7 April, Members had the opportunity to table their amendments to the text. Depending on the outcome of the vote in committee, a negotiation team headed by the Rapporteur will obtain the mandate to enter into negotiations - if necessary - with the

Council and the Commission in order to reach an agreement in second reading.

Rapporteur: **Astrid Lulling** (EPP)

## 2011 DRAFT BUDGET

Consideration and adoption of draft opinion



The European Commission presented the draft budget for 2011 on 27 April to the Budget Committee, who will prepare its report including the views of the Parliament on the draft budget. The

FEMM committee reviewed its priorities and considering the recent figures of the Commission's draft budget, prepared its opinion which will be discussed and voted at the meeting.

Draftswoman: **Iratxe García Pérez** (S-D)

### THE COMMITTEE WILL VOTE ON:

- Draft opinion on the **2011 Draft Budget**
- Draft recommendation for second reading on **Equal treatment between men and women engaged in an activity in a self-employed capacity**
- Draft report on **Assessment of the results of the 2006-2010 Roadmap for Equality between women and men and forward looking recommendations**
- Draft report on **Gender aspects of the economic downturn and financial crisis**

### ASSESSMENT OF THE RESULTS OF THE 2006-2010 ROADMAP FOR EQUALITY BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN AND FORWARD LOOKING RECOMMENDATIONS

Adoption of draft report

A second consideration of this strategic document on 7 April and the extension of the deadline for amendments gave sufficient motivation and time for Members to table their amendments (147), which will now be voted upon. As a result of negotiations amongst Shadow Rapporteurs, 12 compromise amendments have been drafted to bring similar ideas closer to each other.

Rapporteur: **Ilda Figueiredo** (GUE/NGL)

### GENDER ASPECTS OF THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN AND FINANCIAL CRISIS

Adoption of draft report

The actuality of the report attracted a large number of amendments which were discussed at the previous committee meeting. As a result of the debate, the Rapporteur invited his colleagues to discuss the possibilities for compromise amendments, enhancing a broader consensus on several points of the report, such as the important issue of the gender aspect of the shaping EU 2020 strategy.

Rapporteur: **Raül Romeva i Rueda** (Greens/EFA)

### Details of the next meeting

**Monday, 31 May 2010 (time tbc) - Joint LIBE/FEMM Committee meeting**  
**Tuesday, 22 June 2010, 15.00 - 18.30 and Wednesday, 23 June 2010, 9.00 - 12.30**

For more information, please contact

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FEMM website: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/homeCom.do?language=EN&body=FEMM>

Link to committee meeting documents:

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2009\\_2014/organes/femm/femm\\_7leg\\_meetinglist.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2009_2014/organes/femm/femm_7leg_meetinglist.htm)