

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR



The European Parliament, on the initiative of our committee, just adopted its recommendations for the forthcoming EU gender equality strategy, and we look forward to see these being integrated into the proposal that the European Commission will present later in September. I invite you to read the [report](#), and also give your feedback of course. Looking ahead, the European Parliament is working on some very important policy initiatives and the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality is playing a role in many of these. This includes input to the new EU employment guidelines where we try to strengthen the gender equality dimension and in the shaping of the European External Action Service (EEAS). In our upcoming meeting we will also vote on an own-initiative report addressing the rights and inclusion of ethnic minority women - groups of women that are largely invisible to the majority of policy makers in all our countries. We will also be advancing the work on the legislative initiative towards a European Protection Order together with our colleagues in the LIBE committee. And as usual, I cannot emphasize enough how important all external input is to our joint work!

Eva-Britt Svensson

THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN AN AGEING SOCIETY

Consideration of draft report



Europe is facing the problem of an ageing population which has significant gender aspects, the most obvious being that women have a longer life expectancy than men. The draft report draws attention to the greater risk of poverty for elderly women, their need for care services, and the age-related diseases, in particular those that affect women more than men. The Rapporteur finds a more positive attitude to ageing is needed and wants to raise public awareness. The suggestions are arranged around the following points: age discrimination, reconciliation of care and work, health, care and social services and the way forward.

Rapporteur: **Sirpa Pietikäinen** (EPP)

EUROPEAN PROTECTION ORDER

Consideration of draft report jointly with LIBE committee

In its proposal for a [European Protection Order](#), the European Council aims for European wide protection of victims by introducing a mechanism extending victim protection measures to another Member State.

The intention of the Rapporteurs of the jointly responsible FEMM and LIBE committees is to ensure the best protection possible of the victims and their draft report therefore contains amendments to the initial text ensuring continuity of legal protection; limiting the reasons for refusal to recognize, or reject a European protection order; laying down a 20-day deadline for execution of an order; clarifying the position as regards victims moving from one Member State to another and emphasizing the dignity of victims.

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

22-23 JUNE – MEETING AGENDA IN BRIEF

- ⌚ European Protection Order - Consideration of draft report jointly with LIBE committee
- ⌚ The role of women in an ageing society - consideration of draft report
- ⌚ Precarious women workers - consideration of draft report
- ⌚ The Demographic Challenge and Solidarity between Generations - consideration of draft opinion
- ⌚ The contribution of EU policies promoting equality between men and women for combating youth crime - exchange of views with external experts
- ⌚ Social integration of women belonging to ethnic minority groups – adoption of draft report
- ⌚ Developing the job potential of a new sustainable economy - adoption of draft opinion
- ⌚ European External Action Service - adoption of draft opinion
- ⌚ Guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States - consideration and adoption of amendments

Date: Tuesday, 22 June, 15.00-18.30, Wednesday, 23 June 9.00-12.30 **Venue:** JAN 4Q1 meeting room

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

PRECARIOUS WOMEN WORKERS

Consideration of draft report

In the context of the economic crisis, the phenomenon of precarious employment has become even more apparent. Many jobs have been lost or transformed into a more insecure form of employment.

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.



The number of women is higher in precarious jobs, such as the often undeclared domestic or care work, involuntary part-time jobs mainly in the female dominated

branches of the services sector, in particular hotel and restaurant business, education, health and social field. The draft report attempts to collect the defining characteristics of precarious employment. The Rapporteur examines the gendered nature of precarious work, the specific social conditions, the situation of domestic and migrant workers and calls for targeted research.

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

THE DEMOGRAPHIC CHALLENGE AND SOLIDARITY BETWEEN GENERATIONS

Consideration of draft opinion



In her opinion to the report of the EMPL committee, the drafts person emphasizes the gender facet of the demographic challenge and of intergenerational solidarity. The dual role of women, both as employees and mothers requires an adequate approach in times of demographic change.

The draft opinion focuses on the gender pay gap, affordable quality care services as a precondition for reconciliation, multiple discrimination of older women on the labour market, and the important, but underestimated role that women have as carers.

Draftsperson: **Edit Bauer** (EPP)

THE CONTRIBUTION OF EU POLICIES PROMOTING EQUALITY BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN FOR COMBATING YOUTH CRIME

Exchange of views with involvement of external experts

The own initiative report will examine how European equality policies, and Member States' sharing of best practices can propose solutions to this serious social problem, and furthermore explore the role of public services and community action programmes in the prevention and fight against this phenomenon. FEMM committee will hold an exchange of views on this topic, where the Rapporteur presents her working document, followed by presentations of external experts, and a concluding debate with Members and participants.

Rapporteur: **Anna Záborská** (EPP)

SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF WOMEN BELONGING TO ETHNIC MINORITY GROUPS

Adoption of draft report

The Rapporteur presented her draft report to the committee at its previous meeting, when the deadline for amendments has also been set for 11 May, until

when 148 amendments have been tabled. As a result of further negotiations amongst Shadow Rapporteurs, 12 compromise amendments have been prepared, which enjoy a broad support from different political groups.

Rapporteur: **Antonyia Parvanova** (ALDE)

DEVELOPING THE JOB POTENTIAL OF A NEW SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

Adoption of draft opinion

The draft opinion highlighting the gender dimension of the issue was presented to the committee at its May meeting. Members have tabled 44 amendments aiming to introduce new gender-related aspects or to fine-tune the proposed text. The committee will now vote on the draft opinion and the amendments and will transfer the final suggestion to EMPL committee.

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

EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE

Adoption of draft opinion

In the May meeting Members exchanged their views on the draft opinion suggesting necessary measures to ensure a gender balanced setup and functioning of the **EEAS**. Three additional amendments have been tabled to the legislative opinion, which will be put to the vote in FEMM on 23 June and transmitted to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.



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

GUIDELINES FOR THE EMPLOYMENT POLICIES OF THE MEMBER STATES

Adoption of amendments

Several gender related issues may be raised in connection with the **Commission proposal** of the guidelines for Member States' employment policies within the Europe 2020 strategy. The EMPL committee is preparing a draft report on this subject, and given the short time available, the FEMM committee decided to draft and adopt amendments, which will become the opinion of the FEMM committee. The 35 amendments contain inevitable issues, such as improving the quality of female employment, measures for reconciliation of work and family life, tackling the gender pay gap and ending gender segregation on the labour market.

THE COMMITTEE WILL VOTE ON:

- Draft report on **Social integration of women belonging to ethnic minority groups**
- Draft opinion on **Developing the job potential of a new sustainable economy**
- Draft opinion on **European External Action Service**
- Amendments on **Guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States**

Details of the next meeting

Wednesday, 14 July 2010, 9.00 - 12.30 and 15.00 - 18.30

For more information, please contact

FEMM secretariat: - tel: + 32 (0) 2 28 43773 - e-mail: ip-femm@europarl.europa.eu

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