

FEMM coordinators' decision of 16 February 2011

GENDER MAINSTREAMING AMENDMENTS Procedure in the FEMM Committee

Background:

The practice of using "gender mainstreaming amendments" (GM amendments) to integrate the gender aspect in the reports of other committees was introduced at the beginning of the 7th legislative term under the concept of gender mainstreaming in the work of the EP committees. Tabling such amendments directly to the concerned committee enables the FEMM committee to make contributions to the reports of other committees without making formal opinions, particularly in cases when these are not entirely necessary or cannot be drafted due to time constraints. FEMM has already successfully applied this method in several cases.

Member drafting the GM amendments:

When the FEMM coordinators decide to table gender mainstreaming amendments to a report of another committee, the secretariat contacts - under the responsibility of the committee Chair - the Member in charge of Gender Mainstreaming in the committee responsible for the issue (if he/she is also Member of the FEMM Committee) or a FEMM Member knowledgeable on the issue (for instance a rapporteur/draftsperson on a similar issue or one of the shadow rapporteurs in the lead committee) who is also Member of the committee responsible.

Should no Members be available to draft the amendments, the Chair of the FEMM Committee will take up the task of drafting the amendments.

Scope of the GM amendments:

It has to be born in mind that due to the nature of this procedure, the GM amendments shall focus strictly on the gender element of the given issue.

Language and timetable:

The amendments are drafted in one of the main working languages of the FEMM Committee (preferably English) and are not translated. The amendments shall be circulated to the coordinators of the FEMM committee one week before their planned adoption, so that the coordinators have time to react, if they find it necessary.

In case this deadline can not be respected by the Member responsible for drafting the amendments, the Chair might decide, after consultation of the coordinators, to take over the task.

Tabling of the GM amendments in the lead Committee:

Once the amendments are adopted in the FEMM committee, they are co-signed by the FEMM Chair and the Member who drafted them and tabled to the lead committee. The secretariat will establish the final version of the amendments as adopted, gather the signature and table them formally (in cooperation with the Chair's office in the case of amendments to be tabled through AT4AM).

Overview of on-going work on GM amendments:

To enhance transparency and planning, the secretariat will regularly update and circulate at the coordinators' meeting a table detailing all the reports on which it was decided to table GM amendments as well as the Member responsible and the deadline.