

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR



The New Year is starting with many important issues at stake. Our aim is that 2012 will be the year when the European Commission will put forward a proposal for an EU strategy against violence against women, when an agreement on the maternity leave directive will be reached with the Council, and when we will see decisions to increase EU funding for women's rights and gender equality, and not the contrary! This upcoming committee meeting is particularly important as we will continue the discussion of the gender perspectives on climate change, as well as the report on the general situation and priorities for gender equality. I also wish to invite you to a special workshop organised by the Policy Department with the aim of providing a gender analysis of the European Commission proposals for the next Multiannual Financial Framework on 26 January.

Mikael Gustafsson

25 - 26 JANUARY – MEETING AGENDA IN BRIEF

- ⌚ Election of the Chair and Vice-Chairs
- ⌚ Equality between women and men in the European Union - 2011 - consideration of amendments
- ⌚ Women and climate change - consideration of amendments
- ⌚ Exchange of views with Mr Manu Sareen, Minister for Gender Equality and Ecclesiastical Affairs and Minister for Nordic Cooperation, Danish Presidency and Ms Mette Frederiksen, Minister of Employment, Danish Presidency
- ⌚ Annual Report on Human Rights in the World and the European Union's policy on the matter including implications for the EU's strategic human rights policy - consideration of draft opinion
- ⌚ Modernising Europe's higher education systems - consideration of draft opinion
- ⌚ Multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020 - consideration of working document and workshop

THE COMMITTEE WILL VOTE ON

- ⌚ Women in political decision making - quality and equality - adoption of draft report
- ⌚ Discharge 2010: EU general budget, Section III, Commission - adoption of draft opinion
- ⌚ Discharge 2010: European Institute for Gender Equality - adoption of draft opinion

Date: Wednesday, 25 January, 9.30 - 12.30
and 15.00 - 18.30
Thursday, 26 January 9.00 - 12.30
Venue: Altiero Spinelli 3G2, Brussels
Live web streaming of the meeting [here](#).

EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH THE DANISH PRESIDENCY



The exchange of views takes place in the context of the traditional presentation by the incoming presidency of its **priorities and programme** in the committee's area of responsibility. The **Danish Presidency** will be represented by Mr Manu Sareen, Minister for Gender Equality and Ecclesiastical Affairs and Minister for Nordic Cooperation, Danish Presidency and Ms Mette Frederiksen, Minister of Employment, Danish Presidency.

EQUALITY BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN IN THE EUROPEAN UNION - 2011

Consideration of amendments



The FEMM committee will discuss the numerous amendments tabled to the **draft report**, following its presentation at the December meeting. The high number of amendments well reflects the broad scope of the text, as the draft report deals with all the priority areas outlined in the EU strategic documents on women's rights, such as the Women's Charter and the Strategy for Equality between Women and Men (2010-2015).

Rapporteur: Sophia in 't Veld (ALDE)

WOMEN AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Consideration of amendments



The **draft report** was discussed at the last committee meeting and Members tabled 52 **amendments** to the Rapporteur's initial text. These amendments will be discussed at this meeting, before proceeding to the vote in February.

Rapporteur: Nicole Kiil-Nielsen (Greens/EFA)

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

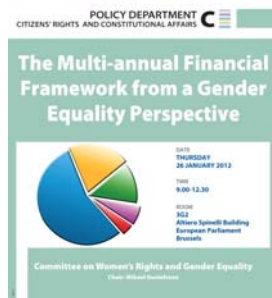
- Definition, promotion and protection of women's rights in the Union and related Community measures;
- The promotion of women's rights in third countries;
- Equal opportunities policy, including equality between men and women with regard to labour market opportunities and treatment at work;
- The removal 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.

MULTIANNUAL FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE YEARS 2014-2020

Consideration of working document

The [working document](#) has been prepared with the aim to outline the FEMM committee's views and priorities as regards the upcoming Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for the years 2014-2020. The document uses the [Commission's proposal](#) as reference and lays down general as well as specific remarks, regarding gender budgeting, the continued need for gender-specific programmes, earmarking of funds and gender financing in external relations.

Workshop - 26 January



The discussion will be followed by a workshop on 26 January with the participation of experts, presenting their assessment of the instruments for the next European MFF, proposed by the European Commission, from a gender perspective. Besides a general approach of gender budgeting, their analysis concerns areas such as, economic independence, educa-

tion, health/well-being/environment, fundamental rights, external relations. The workshop is open for the public. Please click for the [detailed programme](#) and the [registration information](#).

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

ANNUAL REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE WORLD AND THE EUROPEAN UNION'S POLICY ON THE MATTER INCLUDING IMPLICATIONS FOR THE EU'S STRATEGIC HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY

Consideration of draft opinion

This [draft opinion](#) will serve as the FEMM committee's contribution to the report prepared annually by the [Subcommittee on Human Rights](#). The draftsperson touches upon several global women's rights issues and gives detailed recommendations on ways to address these issues within the EU's strategic human rights policy.

Draftsperson: **Teresa Jiménez-Becerril Barrio (EPP)**

MODERNISING EUROPE'S HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEMS

Consideration of draft opinion

The committee decided to prepare a draft opinion to the [own-initiative report](#) of the [Committee on Culture and Education](#), which provides



an opportunity to underline the gender sensitive aspects related to modernising higher education. Among other themes, the draft opinion addresses the issue of the under-

representation of female students in scientific studies and calls for a strong gender perspective in the promotion to senior research positions.

Draftsperson: **Andrea Češková (ECR)**

WOMEN IN POLITICAL DECISION MAKING

Adoption of draft report



The issue has been one of the priorities on the agenda of the FEMM committee and following the debate on the [draft report](#) in December, 132 [amendments](#) were tabled

to the original text. The committee will now vote on the draft report and the amendments.

Rapporteur: **Sirpa Pietikäinen (EPP)**

2010 DISCHARGE: EU GENERAL BUDGET, SECTION III, COMMISSION AND EUROPEAN INSTITUTE FOR GENDER EQUALITY

Adoption of draft opinions

Members will vote on the draft opinion on the discharge of the [2010 EU general budget](#), to which 2 [amendments](#) were tabled, as well as the discharge of the [2010 budget of the European Institute for Gender Equality](#), to which 4 [amendments](#) were tabled. The adopted opinions will be sent to the [Budgetary Control Committee](#).

Draftsperson: **Barbara Matera (EPP)**

Details of the next meeting

Monday, 27 February, 15.00 - 18.30

Tuesday, 28 February, 9.00 - 12.30

International Women's Day 2012

According to the previous years' tradition, the International Women's Day will be celebrated in the frame of an Interparliamentary committee meeting in the European Parliament with the participation of National Parliaments, which will take place on 8 March 2012 in the Hemicycle of the European Parliament in Brussels.

The theme of this year's meeting is

"Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value".

The meeting will be open to the public, and will be preceded by the screening of the movie "[Made in Dagenham](#)", on 7 March, which is also a public event.

Further details and registration information will follow in the upcoming FEMM newsletters, [committee web-page](#) and [facebook page](#).

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