

### JUNE 2016

#### Note from the Chair



This month the FEMM committee members will meet on the 13<sup>th</sup> and the 14<sup>th</sup> of June, 2016 (Altiero Spinelli, 5G-3). During the meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> of June FEMM members will attend the hearing on women's rights in the Eastern Partnership States and other neighbouring countries. Ms Mariana Katzarova (RAW in WAR, UK and Society for Justice Foundation, Bulgaria), Ms Weronika Grzebalska (Graduate School for Social Research, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland), Mr Vincent Forest (EuroMed Rights, Brussels) and representatives from the European Commission (DG NEAR) will participate in a hearing. On the 14<sup>th</sup> of June, FEMM committee members will vote on the draft opinion on the '2017 Budget - Mandate for the Trilogue', and they will also attend an exchange of views on women's role in conflict resolution and reconciliation. Ms Dagmar Schumacher (UN Women), Ms Robi Demalin and Mr Bassam Aramin (representatives of the Parents Circle, an Israeli-Palestinian NGO) will also take part in an exchange of views. In addition, the FEMM Committee will have a joint meeting with the EMPL Committee on the 16<sup>th</sup> of June where amendments to the draft report 'Creating Labour Market Conditions Favourable for Work-Life Balance' will be considered. You are kindly invited to follow these meetings through [web-streaming!](#)

Iratxe GARCÍA PÉREZ

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### Women's Rights in the Eastern Partnership States and other neighbouring countries

**Rapporteur: Mariya Gabriel (EPP)**

During the FEMM committee meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> of June, the hearing on women's rights in Eastern Partnership and other neighbouring states will take place. As long as cooperation with the EU partner states is based on a commitment to democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms, it is necessary to ensure and monitor the implementation of women rights in this region. The hearing will be attended by Ms Mariana Katzarova (Founder and Chair in RAW in WAR, UK and Society for Justice Foundation, Bulgaria), Ms Weronika Grzebalska (Graduate School for Social Research, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland), Mr Vincent Forest (Advocacy Director in EuroMed Rights, Brussels) and representatives from the European Commission (DG NEAR). The rapporteur, Ms. Mariya Gabriel (EPP), will present her draft report in the FEMM committee meeting after the summer break.



The next FEMM committee meetings will be held on:  
**Monday 11 July 2016, from 15.00 to 18.30** and on **Tuesday 12 July 2016, from 9.00 to 12.30** and from **15.00 to 18.30**

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## 2017 Budget - Mandate for the Trilogue

Rapporteur: Viorica Dăncilă (S&D)



The only vote on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June will be regarding Ms Viorica Dăncilă's [draft opinion](#) '2017 Budget - Mandate for the Trilogue'. The FEMM committee members will consider [28 tabled amendments](#) and will vote on the adoption of the draft opinion. In her opinion, Ms Viorica Dăncilă emphasises the significance of gender budgeting and promotion of gender equality during the entire budgetary process. Moreover, she draws attention to the importance of financial measures under the European Structural and Investment Funds that are dedicated to the promotion of good-quality education, entrepreneurship, employability, job creation for women and girls, as well as the creation of childcare facilities in order to increase female employment rates. The rapporteur also calls on incorporation of gender mainstreaming and gender budgeting in the work of the European Asylum Support Office in order to foster inclusion and monitoring of the situation of women refugees and asylum seekers. Finally, Ms Viorica Dăncilă calls on the allocation of financial resources to the Daphne project and the European Monitoring Centre on Gender Violence (along the lines of EIGE) as violence against women still prevails in Europe.

## Exchange of views: Role of Women in Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation

In light of the conflicts taking place in the European Neighbourhood states and the stalled peace processes in the Middle East, the significance of women's role (embedded in the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security) in conflict resolution and reconciliation must be promoted. Thus, on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June, members of the FEMM committee will attend an exchange of views with Ms Dagmar Schumacher (UN Women), Ms Robi Demalin (Spokeswoman and Director of International Relations of the Parents Circle, an Israeli-Palestinian NGO) and Mr Bassam Aramin (Spokesman of Parents Circle, Israeli-Palestinian NGO). The speakers are actively seeking to build dialogue, cooperation and common understanding between the conflicting sides by promoting women's engagement.

## FEMM/EMPL joint meeting: Creating Labour Market Conditions Favourable for Work-Life

Rapporteurs: Vilija Blinkevičiūtė (S&D), FEMM committee  
Tatjana Ždanoka (Greens/EFA), EMPL committee



On the 16<sup>th</sup> of June, a joint FEMM and EMPL meeting will take place. The participants of the meeting will consider the [464 amendments](#) tabled to the [draft report](#) on 'Creating Labour Market Conditions Favourable for Work-Life Balance'. The report is meant to provide an input to the Commission's 'Roadmap: A new start to address the challenges of work-life balance faced by working families'. The co-rapporteurs emphasise the importance of reconciliation of professional, private and family life and claim for it to be a fundamental right. To secure this fundamental right, they call on the Commission and the Member States to promote equality between women and men at work and to ensure equal earnings and equal career opportunities. They also call on the Commission to present a proposal for a revised Maternity Leave Directive, to bring forward the

Paternity Leave Directive and the Carers' Leave Directive and to present the implementation report of the Parental Leave Directive. What is more, the Commission and the Member States are called to set up childhood, elderly and dependent care services and to ensure their qualitative standards. Finally, measures necessary for the achievement of quality life and quality employment are proposed by the co-rapporteurs. The FEMM committee will vote on the adoption of this draft report on the 12<sup>th</sup> of July.

## EIGE: Do you work in research? Don't miss EIGE's conference on gender equality in research

Research organisations are not immune to gender inequalities - women represent more than half of graduate students in the EU, but make up only 33% of all researchers and hold only 20% of senior academic positions. In response to these challenges, the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), in cooperation with the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research and Innovation have developed an online tool to bring more gender equality into the research sector. The tool will give practical guidance on how to set-up and implement gender equality plans into internal structures and processes, bringing greater gender awareness and equality to research organisations. On 20<sup>th</sup> October 2016, the tool will be launched at a high level conference in Brussels, 'Mainstreaming gender equality into academic and research organisations'. Carlos Moedas, Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation will open the conference that will bring together around 170 decision-makers and experts working in the field. See EIGE's website for [more information](#).

