

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2016

Note from the Chair of FEMM Committee



The final FEMM Committee meetings of the year will take place on Tuesday 29 November 2016 in Brussels and in the evening of Monday 12 December 2016 in Strasbourg, with a wide variety of reports, hearings and amendments to fill the busy schedule. The first meeting will begin with voting on the adoption of several draft reports and opinions. These include the draft report on promoting gender equality in mental health and clinical research, the draft report on rights of women in the Eastern Partnership states and the draft opinion on a European Pillar of Social Rights. The draft report on EU funds for gender equality will also be considered. Following this, committee members will attend an exchange of views on the role of self-defence in preventing violence against women, including the presentation of a Policy Department study on Knowledge and know-how: the role of self-defence in the prevention of violence against women by Prof. Liz

Kelly. On the agenda for 29 November 2016 are also the amendments tabled on three files: draft report on the need for an EU strategy to end and prevent the Gender Pension Gap, draft report on the application of Council Directive 2004/113/EC implementing the principle of equal treatment between men and women in the access to and supply of goods and services (the Committee will vote on this report as a whole on 12 December), and the draft opinion on the European Accessibility Act. The 2015 discharge procedures of EIGE and the EU general budget will be considered by members. Finally, during the meeting in Strasbourg on 12 December, Members will vote on the gender mainstreaming amendments to the European Agenda for the Collaborative Economy. You can follow the proceedings online through [web-streaming](#).

Promoting gender equality in mental health and clinical research

Rights of Women in the Eastern Partnership States

Rapporteur: Beatriz BECERRA (ALDE)

Rapporteur: Mariya GABRIEL (EPP)



On 29 November 2016, Members of the FEMM committee will begin the afternoon meeting with the vote on the adoption of the [draft report](#) promoting gender equality in mental health and clinical research. Rapporteur, Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea (ALDE), highlighted that sex and gender matter in health at all levels and impact differently on women and men's health, access to health and health-care. However, research and practice still fail to take adequate account of differences between men and women in terms of health, illness and treatment. 298 amendments were tabled to this report.



The FEMM Members will vote on the adoption of the [draft report](#) Rights of Women in the Eastern Partnership States on 29 November 2016. In the draft report, Rapporteur Mariya Gabriel (EPP) deals with the situation of the rights of women in the Eastern Partnership States which are covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). According to the draft report, although constitutions of these countries guarantee equality between women and men, de facto inequality persists. The report saw 85 amendments tabled to it.

Joint committee meeting, FEMM and LIBE - Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence

Rapporteur: Revault D'ALLONNES BONNEFOY (S&D) Corazza BILDT (EPP)



On the morning of 29 November 2016, the LIBE and FEMM committees will hold a joint public hearing on the EU accession to the Istanbul Convention on combating violence against women. Key speakers will include Ms Dubravka Šimonović, UN Special Rapporteur; Ms Tiina Astola, European Commission; Mr Marian Filcik, Council Presidency; Ms Corazza Bildt and Ms Revault d'Allonnes Bonnefoy, EP co-rapporteurs. The outcome of the hearing will contribute to the interim report to be drafted jointly by the two Committees. Additionally, beginning on 25 November, the International Day on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the FEMM Committee will be launching a communications campaign on the ratification of the Istanbul Convention.

European funds for gender equality

Rapporteur: Clare MOODY (S&D)



On the 29 of November 2016, FEMM members will consider the [draft report](#) on EU funds for gender equality, presented by Rapporteur, Clare Moody (S&D). The report highlights the sporadic nature of the implementation of gender mainstreaming in EU budget allocations and spending decisions. The report issues specific recommendations including all EU budget titles to pursue equally strong gender targets and gender mainstreaming standards, increasing the level of funds allocated to achieving the objectives of gender-strategic engagement in the next MFF, and regular training programmes and technical support on gender mainstreaming tools for all staff involved in policy making and budgetary procedures. Opinions on the draft report will be supplied by the BUDG and CONT Committees. At the meeting on 29 November 2016, members will be invited to table amendments and the deadline for this will be set.

End and prevent the Gender Pension Gap

Rapporteur: Constance LE GRIP (EPP)



Members will consider the 241 amendments tabled on the [draft report](#) on the need for an EU strategy to end and prevent the Gender Pension Gap. The Rapporteur outlines the considerable difference between men and women in terms of pensions in the EU, with the pension gap standing at 38% in the EU-28 in 2012 and women being both over-represented in the poorest pensioner groups and under-represented in the wealthiest. The report outlines four primary recommendations: more accurate assessment and awareness, reducing inequalities in terms of ability to make pension contributions through proper implementation of existing legislation and active efforts to tackle horizontal and vertical segregation on the labour market, reducing career-related gender inequalities, and the introduction of corrective measures in pension systems to aid the most vulnerable groups.

Exchange of Views: The role of self-defence in preventing violence against women

On 29 November 2016, Members of the FEMM Committee will attend an exchange of views on the role of self-defence in preventing violence against women. The discussion will include a presentation of the Policy Department study on "Knowledge and know-how: the role of self-defence in the prevention of violence against women" by Professor Liz Kelly, Director of Child and Woman Abuse Unit, London Metropolitan University. This study examines research on the effectiveness of self-defence and its place in policies at EU and Member State levels. It concludes that there is a growing evidence base that feminist self-defence can be effective in preventing violence. Whilst references to self-defence are present in the EU and Council of Europe policy documents, they are not substantial and yet to be developed into a coherent approach. Self-defence should be considered a promising practice and be better promoted and supported. More space should be made for it in policy, financing and research.

Discharge 2015: General budget of the EU - European Commission and European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)

Rapporteur for the opinions: Viorica DĂNCILĂ (S&D)



On 29 November 2016, the FEMM committee will lastly discuss two discharge procedures: one concerning the EU general budget and the other on European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE). The draft opinion on the discharge of the EU general budget stresses that equality between women and men must be integrated in all policy areas, including gender budgeting at all stages of the budgetary process and in the MFF. It also calls on the Court of Auditors to include an analysis of achieving gender-related targets, as in the EU 2020 Strategy, in their annual reports, reiterates its previous calls on the Commission to ensure the full implementation of the funds allocated to the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (REC) and to respect the appropriate and fair distribution of financial support between different areas covered by the specific objectives of the REC Programme. The draft opinion related to the discharge of the budget of EIGE, presented by Rapporteur Viorica Dăncilă (S&D), notes that the Court of Auditors' opinion stated that the annual accounts of EIGE present its financial position at the end of 2015 fairly and that the annual accounts for 2015 are legal and regular in all material respects. It also calls on EIGE to step up efforts to reduce the level of carry-over of payments. The opinion praises the high quality and importance of the work of EIGE and appreciates the contribution of EIGE to the ongoing work of the Committee. Ultimately, the opinion recommends that discharge can be granted to the Director of EIGE in respect of the implementation of the EIGE's budget for the financial year 2015. Members will be invited to table amendments to the [draft opinions](#) and the deadline for this will be set.

Draft Report on the application of Council Directive 2004/113/EC implementing the principle of equal treatment between men and women in the access to and supply of goods and services

Rapporteur: Agnieszka KOZŁOWSKA-RAJEWICZ (EPP)



On 29 November 2016, FEMM members will consider the [126 amendments](#) tabled on the draft report on the application of Council Directive 2004/113/EC implementing the principle of equal treatment between men and women in the access to and supply of goods and services. On 12 December, members will vote on the adoption of the report. The report, presented by the Rapporteur Agnieszka Kozłowska-Rajewicz, refers to the Directive 2004/113/EC which extends the principle of equal treatment of men and women beyond the realm of employment and the labour market and into the field of access to and supply of goods and services. It outlines issues with the Directive, such as unequal implementation in Member States and in certain sectors, a lack of relevant data and the restrictive scope of the Directive which excludes areas such as media, advertising and education-related services. Thus, the draft report outlines a series of recommendations to tackle these issues such as enhanced exchange of best practices, inclusion of services provided within the collaborative economy in the Directive's implementation and for Commission, Member States and equality bodies to raise awareness about the provisions of the Directive among both service providers and users.

GMAs - European Agenda for the Collaborative Economy

On 12 December 2016, the FEMM Committee will vote on the adoption of gender mainstreaming amendments (GMAs) to the Commission Communication on a European Agenda for the Collaborative Economy. The Communication, which was announced in the Single Market Strategy, explains how existing EU law should be applied to the collaborative economy, clarifying key issues faced by market operators and public authorities, such as market access requirements, liability, consumer protection, labour law and tax. The GMAs will highlight and emphasise the gendered aspects and implications of the collaborative economy.

Towards a gender equal organisation: EIGE's toolkits help get you started

What does it mean to mainstream gender in a public institution? EIGE's new online tools provide step-by-step guides and practical information on how to do this in practice – starting from the early planning phases, all the way through to the final implementation and evaluation. EIGE has published four tools: Gender Equality in Academia and Research (GEAR tool), Gender Impact Assessment, Institutional Transformation and Gender Equality Training. They are all part of EIGE's Gender Mainstreaming Platform, an online guide to identifying and addressing gender equality challenges across different areas of society. Explore the tools [here](#).

European Pillar of Social Rights

Rapporteur: Maria ARENA (S&D)



On 29 November 2016, FEMM Members will vote on the adoption of the [draft opinion](#) on the EMPL report on European Pillar of Social Rights, drafted by Maria Arena (S&D). The Rapporteur for the opinion highlights that despite gender equality being enshrined in the Treaties and in the Charter of Fundamental Rights it is not achieved, as evidenced by, for example, a gender pay gap of 16% and a gender pension gap of 39%. The Rapporteur calls for a binding mechanism for monitoring and implementation of existing social rights and reiterates the call on the Commission to come forward with a package of legislative and non-legislative measures regarding work-life balance.

European Accessibility Act

Rapporteur for the Opinion: Rosa ESTARÀS FERRAGUT (EPP)



FEMM members will consider the [131 amendments](#) tabled on the draft opinion to the IMCO report on the Approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States as regards the accessibility requirements for products and services, also known as the European Accessibility Act. The draft opinion recommends extending the scope of the range of goods and services covered in the report, that the report should require that the built environment be accessible, and that report should include a requirement that information about non-compliance with the accessibility requirements that is held by the authorities be made public systematically. Additionally, it should be ensured that the legislation addresses the needs of all persons with disabilities, especially women and girls with disabilities and persons with disabilities requiring more intensive support.

The next FEMM committee meeting:
9 January 2017 from 15.00 to 18.30 in Brussels)

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