

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2017

NOTE FROM THE CHAIR



Dear Readers,

The final FEMM committee meeting of the year will take place on Monday 4 December. We will vote on the adoption of the draft report on Women, gender equality and climate justice; an opinion on the preparation of the Parliament's position on the MFF post-2020; and an opinion on the annual growth survey for the European semester for economic policy coordination.

Looking back over the last year, it is truly wonderful to see all the things we have achieved together, the numerous opinions and reports we have written, the workshops and hearings with national and international experts we have organised, and also the exchanges of views with national parliamentarians we have held. Three successes particularly stand

out. Firstly, and perhaps most importantly, the EU's signature to the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) in June 2017, which is the first step in the process of the EU joining the Convention. Secondly, the work-life balance package which aims to reconcile professional, private, and family life and prompt the EU to step up its work in this field. Thirdly, the inter-parliamentary meeting we held on the occasion of the International Women's Day 2017, entitled "Women's economic empowerment: Let's act together!"

As we look ahead for the following year, we will be following the EU's accession process to the Istanbul Convention, the work-life balance package, and we will be organising the next International Women's Day which will be titled "Empowering women and girls in media and ICT: key for the future".

Stay with us and follow our meetings via the [Webstream!](#)

4 DECEMBER

Women, gender equality and climate justice - Vote



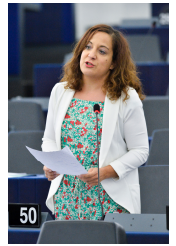
Ms Linnéa Engström (Greens/EFA, Sweden) is the rapporteur of a draft report on women, gender equality, and climate justice that investigates the gender dimension of climate change and measures to support women in their actions to adapt to the changing climate in the EU and around the world.

Climate change impacts women and men differently, with women more likely to face greater negative consequences. Thus, it is important to factor in these differences into climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies and to include women's voices in the formulation of such policies.

[Link to the procedure](#)

The next MFF: Preparing the Parliament's position on the MFF post-2020 - Vote

The rapporteur, Ms García Pérez (S&D, Spain) has recalled the joint declaration from November 2013 by the Parliament, the Council and the Commission where it was agreed that the annual budgetary procedures applied to the MFF would integrate, as appropriate, gender-responsive elements and calls for a renewed commitment and monitoring thereof. The draft opinion stresses that gender budgeting must become an integral part of the budgetary procedure at all its stages, and advocates the explicit mention of gender equality in the relevant heading and a separate budget line for the Daphne programme. The document also underlines the importance of sufficient financing under the European structural and investment funds of measures supporting good-quality education, employability, entrepreneurship and job creation for women and girls.



[Link to the procedure](#)

European semester for economic policy coordination: annual growth survey 2018 - Vote

Ms Evelyn Regner (S&D, Austria) is the rapporteur of the FEMM draft position in the form of amendments to the ECON report on the European Semester for economic policy coordination: Annual Growth Survey 2018. The rapporteur has tabled 10 amendments which show that there is still no gender perspective and a lack of gender indicators in the European Semester framework.



Twelve additional amendments have been tabled by the other members of the Committee.

[Link to the procedure](#)

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AGENCY REPORT

“Challenges to women’s human rights in the EU”



Widespread gender-based violence, hate and discrimination continue to threaten the well-being and ability of women to live full and active lives in society, as a new Fundamental Rights Agency paper shows. It calls for renewed and stronger efforts by the EU and its Member States to promote gender equality and change societal attitudes to help eradicate discrimination and violence towards women. Evidence was collected by the agency's research network complemented with data from EU-wide surveys and desk research. It contributed to this year European Commission's Annual Colloquium on Fundamental Rights focusing on women's rights in turbulent times.

[Link to the Study](#)

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2017

The EU's signature to the Istanbul Convention

Violence – including crimes that disproportionately impact women, such as rape, stalking, and domestic violence – is a clear violation of human rights, and damages human dignity, gender equality and self-respect. Such gender-based violence has been a focus of international attention for several decades, and progress has been achieved. However, there is a lot of room for improving at the national and EU level.

The Istanbul Convention, which came into force in 2014, is the first legally binding international instrument on preventing and combating violence against women and girls at the international level. It establishes a comprehensive framework of legal and policy measures for preventing such violence, supporting victims and punishing perpetrators. As of June 2017, the EU signed the Convention and as of November 2017, it has been signed by all EU Member States, and ratified by 17. FEMM Committee had the opportunity to assess the process of implementation of the Convention in the Member States during the Inter-parliamentary committee meeting with members of national parliaments that took place on 21st November.



The work-life balance package



The reconciliation of professional, private and family life is an important issue for FEMM and in 2015 we re-launched attention to a holistic approach in reconciling work-life balance to prompt the EU to step up its work in this field. There is a need to modernise the existing EU legislation, as well as to strengthen the coordination between Member States in order to ensure a level playing field regarding the costs and benefits of reconciliation policies. In 2017, following the continuous calls from FEMM committee including the most recent resolution of 13 September 2016 on creating labour market conditions favourable for work-life balance, the Commission presented the package of legislative and non-legislative measures to the Parliament. FEMM is working as an associated committee to EMPL on the work-life balance directive which wants to introduce a two week paid paternity leave and five day paid carers' leave for the first time at EU level as well as specific enhancements to parental leave such as payment for the whole duration of four months, and the introduction of the non-transferability clause.

International Women's Day 2017



Let's act together!
International Women's Day 2017
#IWD2017

On 8 and 9 March, we held an inter-parliamentary meeting for International Women's Day, entitled "Women's economic empowerment: Let's act together!" During the day, we had various workshops including Women in STEM, Freedom from GBV, Gender Sensitive Inclusive Growth, Work-Life Balance, and Women's Economic Empowerment, as well as diverse presentations and speeches from renowned women's activists.

It was a fantastic event, which provided a global forum for the national gender equality leaders to exchange their experiences and best practices in advancing women's economic situation, while also accentuating the issue on the European and global equality agenda.

LOOKING AHEAD: 2018

The work-life balance package

The work-life balance rapporteur, Ms Agnieszka KOZOWSKA-RAJEWICZ (EPP), intends to take an inclusive approach and have in-depth discussions among the FEMM Members on the Commission's proposal before delivering the final opinion to EMPL committee in May next year. In addition, FEMM plans to tackle the non-legislative part of the Commission's package by giving its input on the use of EU funds for the purpose of improving the availability and quality of care facilities.

International Women's Day 2018

The FEMM Committee will organise another Inter-Parliamentary Committee Meeting on the occasion of the International Women's Day entitled "Empowering women and girls in media and ICT: key for the future". Members of EU National Parliaments will be invited.

The process of EU accession to the Istanbul Convention

Following the EU's signature to the Istanbul Convention, the path has been laid for its ratification. Accession now requires the adoption of Council decisions on the conclusion of the Convention, which will need the consent of the European Parliament. Discussions are now focusing on a Code of Conduct defining how the EU and its Member States will cooperate on implementing of the Convention.

Next Committee meetings: Thursday 11 January 2018 from 10.30 to 12.30 jointly with LIBE; Wednesday 24 January 2018, from 09.00 to 12.30 and from 15.00 to 18.30



Contact the editor:

FEMM secretariat: femm-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu

FEMM website : www.europarl.europa.eu/femm