

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2018

NOTE FROM THE CHAIR



On 19 and 20 February we held two committee meetings. The main result of them was the adoption of the draft report on Gender equality in the media sector in the EU. The draft report will be considered by the Plenary during the March session in Strasbourg. Among other topics these meetings also allowed us to meet the situation of women and women's rights defenders in the neighbourhood of the European Union (in the Southern Partnership states) and in one of the candidate states to the EU enlargement: Montenegro. On 20 and 27 February we celebrated two joint committee meetings with LIBE devoted to the analysis of two shared files aimed at monitoring the implementation of the so called Victims' package: the Directive on the European Protection Order (EPO) and the Victims' Rights Directive. During the first joint meeting our members discussed the amendments to the EPO draft report and considered the draft report on the implementation of the Victims' Directive. On 27 February LIBE and FEMM jointly adopted the draft report on the

implementation of the EPO. Thank you to all who came or followed us via webstream. Finally I would like to underline that on 8 March we will hold an Inter-parliamentary Committee Meeting (ICM) on the occasion of the International Women's Day. The ICM will be focused on the situation of women and girls in media and Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs). Both media and ICTs have considerable potential in the promotion of women's empowerment. This prominent event will thus provide a global forum for an exchange of experiences and best practices in these areas.

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

LAST COMMITTEE MEETINGS

19 FEBRUARY

Women as Agents of Change in the Southern Partnership States - Hearing



The Directive establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime ensures that persons who have fallen victim of crime are recognised, treated with respect and receive proper support and access to justice. The Directive takes into account the gender perspective and the specific needs of specific groups of victims. LIBE and FEMM committees are working on a draft report that will assess the implementation of the Directive in order to analyse to which extent it brings real change for victims and to propose recommendations for a more effective support of victims. The joint hearing, which counted with the

participation of victims, researchers, academics, and organisations supporting victims, brought valuable input to the draft report whose FEMM co-rapporteur is Ms Angelika Mlinar (ALDE, Austria).

[Link to the Event](#)

Work-life balance for parents and carers - Presentation by the Commission and the EESC



One of the deliverables of the European Pillar for Social Rights is the 'New Start' initiative to address the work-life balance challenges faced by working parents and carers. The initiative aims at modernising the existing EU legal framework in the area of family-related leaves and flexible working arrangements. The proposal presented by the Commission includes: the introduction of paternity leave - 10 working days around the time of birth of the child, compensated at least at the level of sick pay; the strengthening of parental leave by making the 4 months period compensated at least at sick pay level and non-transferable from a parent to another; the introduction of carers' leave for workers caring for seriously ill or dependent relatives, 5 days per year, compensated at least at sick pay level and the extension of the right to request

flexible working arrangements (reduced working hours, flexible working hours and flexibility in place of work) to all working parents of children up to 12 and carers with dependent relatives. This was the first discussion on the legislative file in FEMM, which will deliver its opinion to the EMPL committee in May. The Commission represented by Karen Vandeckerchove, DG JUST presented its proposal and the European Economic and Social Committee's Erika Koller, EESC rapporteur presented the EESC opinion on the proposal. Representatives of both institutions responded to the questions by the rapporteur Ms Agnieszka Kozowska-Rajewicz (EPP, Poland) and other MEPs.

Towards an EU external strategy against early and forced marriages - Consideration of draft opinion



The right to a 'free and full' consent to a marriage is recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Child marriage violates the rights of the girl child to be free from all forms of discrimination, inhuman and degrading treatment, and slavery. The aim of the report is to examine the human rights aspects of child and early marriage and the European Union's external action can best contribute to eradicating this harmful practice in the framework of the EU's policy vis-à-vis third countries. The rapporteur, Ms Daniela Aiuto (EFDD, Italy), invites the European External Action Service to come forward with a specific strategy which will identify the necessary steps in fighting against early and child marriages with specific actions, objectives and dedicated funding with the overall goal of eradicating the practice by 2030 in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goal.

[Link to the procedure](#)

Violation of the rights of indigenous peoples in the world, including land grabbing - Consideration of draft opinion



The rapporteur, Mr Florent Marcellesi (Greens-EFA, Spain), pointed out in the draft opinion the special connection between indigenous women and the ancestral territories, especially in relation to traditional practices around sustainable management of natural resources, the model of community support and resilience and expresses its deep concern about the consequences that land grabbing and resource extraction have in indigenous communities. 60 amendments have been tabled to the draft opinion. The vote will take place on 12 of April.

[Link to the procedure](#)

Modernisation of Education in the EU - Consideration of draft opinion



The draft report and the draft opinion will build on the Commission initiatives addressing schools, higher education and graduate tracking, which are part of the "New Skills Agenda for Europe".

The rapporteur for the opinion, Ms Michaela Šojdrová (EPP, Czech Republic), focuses on the gender aspect of the education reform, pointing out the gap between female graduates of sciences and technologies and their presence in the labour market, and points to the importance of the balanced representation of women and men on boards of schools, universities and research institutes.

[Link to the procedure](#)

Monitoring the application of EU law 2016 - Consideration of draft opinion



The rapporteur, Ms Marijana Petir (EPP, Croatia), pointed out in the draft opinion that non-implementation, improper application and lack of enforcement of the existing EU law in the area of equality between women and men affects the efficiency of the Union especially when it comes to existing EU legislation tackling the principle of equal opportunities and equal treatment of women and men. 56 amendments have been tabled to the draft opinion. The vote will take place on 12 of April.

[Link to the procedure](#)

20 FEBRUARY

Gender Equality in the Media Sector in the EU - Vote



The relationship between women and the media is crucial to achieving gender equality as seen by two relevant strategic aims: participation and access of women to media and a balanced and non-stereotyped portrayal of women in the media. The draft report analyses the state of affairs in the media sector in view of both strategic aims. The focus of the assessment is the extent to which women are currently represented in top positions in media industry as well as the nature of state or company policies and measures put in place for the purpose of improving the industry's gender balance. The draft report, whose rapporteur is Michaela Šojdová (EPP, Czech Republic), was adopted by 25 votes in favour to 4 votes against, with zero abstentions.

[Link to the procedure](#)

Empowering women and girls through the digital sector - Vote



The draft resolution, whose rapporteur is Ms Agnieszka Kozowska-Rajewicz (EPP, Poland), deals with the gender gap in digital skills and access to digital tools and services. It calls on the Commission to exploit and better target the Digital Agenda and the Digital Single Market Strategy with a view to addressing the severe gender gap within the ICT sector and fostering the full integration of women into the sector. It encourages the Commission and Member States on finding solutions and sharing best practices on early digital education, including e-skills and coding, as well as supporting lifelong learning and schemes which help prepare for a better adaptation or potential change of career path in accordance with the growing demand for e-skills in many different sectors, paying particular attention to women aged 55 and over. The draft resolution also asks the Member States and the Commission to promote the participation of women in business sectors that are stereotypically considered 'male'.

Women's rights in the Western Balkans – the case of Montenegro - Exchange of views



The exchange of views was part of a study visit of Members from the Gender Equality Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro aimed at getting a first-hand knowledge of the European Parliament from a gender equality perspective. The event was focused on matters such as the situation of minorities and gender equality, the combat of violence against women and the protection of children's' rights or the empowering women. The Gender Equality Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro was represented in the exchange of views by 4 of its members headed by the Chair of the Committee Ms Nada Drobnjak.

The Victims' package - FEMM-LIBE meeting



The first part of the joint meeting was devoted to the consideration of the 183 amendments tabled to the draft report on the implementation of the Directive on the European Protection Order. The co-rapporteurs in charge of this implementation report are Ms Post (S&D, Sweden) and Ms Jiménez-Becerril (EPP, Spain). The EPO is a judicial cooperation tool based on the principle of mutual recognition, which means that protection orders issued in one Member State have to be recognized and enforced in another Member State. The second part of the meeting considered the draft report on the implementation of the Directive establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime. Ms Mlinar (ALDE, Austria) and Ms Jiménez-Becerril are the rapporteurs in charge of this dossier. The Directive aims to

ensure that persons who have fallen victim of crime are recognised, treated with respect and receive proper support and access to justice. The two Directives under scrutiny are considered as a package aimed at reassuring victims that the law enforcement agencies, the judicial system, the social protection system and the whole society is backing them.

[Link to EPO procedure](#)

[Link to Victim's procedure](#)

27 FEBRUARY

Report on the implementation of Directive 2011/99/EU on the European Protection Order - Vote



The EPO is a judicial cooperation tool based on the principle of mutual recognition. One of the main challenges in the application of this instrument is to ensure that the protection of victims is not hampered by the diversity of national measures. The draft implementation report whose co-rapporteurs are Ms Jiménez Becerril (EPP, Spain) on behalf of FEMM, and Ms Soraya Post (S&D, Sweden) on behalf of LIBE, includes a general assessment of the implementation of the directive and recommendations to improve it, general recommendations relating to gender-based violence and proposals for a coherent EU legal framework protecting victims. The draft report was adopted by 54 votes in favour to 6 votes against, with 1 abstention.

[Link to the procedure](#)

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Our next Committee meeting will take place on 8 March from 9.00 to 12.30. This will be an Inter-parliamentary Committee meeting on the occasion of the International Women's Day and it will be devoted to "Empowering women and girls in media and ICTs: key for the future". The topic chosen this year retains global importance and is one that allows for in-depth examination. Media has the capacity to influence public opinion and frame information. At the same time, Information and communication technologies (ICTs) permeate all levels and areas of society. Both media and ICTs therefore have considerable potential in the promotion of women's empowerment. This prominent event will thus provide a global forum for an exchange of experiences and best practices in these areas.

[Link to the website of the event](#)

The following meetings will be held on 27 March (from 15.00 to 18.30) and 28 March (from 9.00 to 12.30). Then we will discuss, among others, the following topics:

- Work-life balance for parents and carers - Consideration of draft opinion
- Union Civil Protection Mechanism - Adoption of draft position in the form of amendments
- Modernisation of Education in the EU - Adoption of draft opinion

BULLETIN

EIGE

Gender equality and the digital agenda



Women and men in the digital world is one of the priority topics for EIGE in 2018. This spring, the Institute will publish a report on women and men in ICT jobs, focusing on the reasons behind women's low presence in the field. EIGE also scrutinises the work-life balance opportunities to see whether better policies could attract more women and counteract the gender-imbalance in the profession. To complement the findings, EIGE will release a series of good practices from around the EU that promote better work-life balance and encourage women to take-up jobs as ICT specialists. In autumn, EIGE will reveal its findings on the opportunities and risks of digitalisation for young people. These reports are part of EIGE's work to review different areas of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA), as requested by the presidencies of the Council of the European Union. The first report has been prepared

for the Bulgarian Presidency and the second one for the upcoming Austrian Presidency.

[Link to EIGE's site on the Digital Agenda](#)



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