

NEWSLETTER JULY 2018

NOTE FROM THE CHAIR



Dear Readers,

We had two packed Committee meetings on 9 and 10 July. Due to the length of the agendas of both meetings I cannot touch all the items in this note but I will underline some especially important points.

The meeting of 9 July was mainly devoted to a hearing on the Gender Pay Gap. In November 2017 the Commission issued its Action Plan 2017-2019 on Tackling the Gender Pay Gap. The Action Plan presents ongoing and upcoming measures taken by the Commission to combat the Gender Pay Gap. The event counted with the participation of the Director General of Justice and Consumers as well as representatives from both employers and

employees and academia.

During this meeting we also considered two draft opinions. One on the Proposal for a regulation on the common provisions of Structural funds; and one on the establishment of a European Labour Authority.

On 10 July the most important item of the agenda was the vote on the draft report on the Measures to prevent and combat mobbing and sexual harassment at workplace, in public spaces, and political life in the EU. Harassment is a major attack to women's freedom and dignity and it can have lasting damaging effects on the victims, including profound implications on their psychological, mental and physical health.

Along with this vote the Committee also voted on the budgetary amendments to be tabled on behalf of FEMM to the EU Budget 2019; and on an oral question to the Commission on gender budgeting.

Just before the votes the FEMM Members welcomed Ms Juliane Bogner-Strauß, Austrian Federal Minister within the Federal Chancellery for Women, Families and Youth, who presented the Council Presidency's programme and priorities for the upcoming term.

Thank you to all who came or followed us via [Webstream](#)!

We wish you nice summer break. See you in September.

LAST COMMITTEE MEETINGS

9 JULY

Action Plan on Tackling the gender pay gap – Hearing



The hearing was aimed at analysing the proposals included in the EU Action Plan 2017-2019 on Tackling the Gender Pay Gap presented by the Commission in November 2017. The event counted with the participation of the Director General of Justice and Consumers as well as representatives from both employers and employees and academia. The Action Plan presents ongoing and upcoming measures taken by the Commission to combat the gender pay gap.

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

Proposal for a regulation on the common provisions of Structural funds - Consideration of draft opinion

The draft opinion starts from the premises that more awareness should be raised about why investment decisions and budgetary allocations should be made in a gender sensitive way. When investment decisions and budgetary allocations are made, women's and men's different economic, political and social position, including preferences, roles and use of time are not taken into consideration. A gender impact assessment is the first step toward avoiding unintended effects which do not promote gender equality.

What is also needed is sensitisation of policy and decision-makers to the need for gender impact assessments. In addition, positive action and affirmative action should also be adopted as tools to ensure that more active steps are taken to achieve gender equality.

The draftsman, Ms Sirpa Pietikäinen, (EPP, Finland), has tabled 4 amendments on the importance of gender impact assessments when Member States take the decision to allocate the performance reserve.



[Link to the procedure](#)

Establishing a European Labour Authority - Consideration of draft opinion



The European Labour Authority (ELA) will be entrusted with a number of operational tasks, namely to provide relevant information and services to individuals and employers, as well as support Member States in cooperation, information exchange, concerted and joint inspections, risk assessment, capacity building, mediation, and cooperation in the event of cross-border labour market disruptions. The overall objective of the initiative is to contribute to ensuring fair labour mobility in the Internal Market.

The rapporteur for the draft opinion, Mr Jordi Solé (Greens/EFA, Spain), decided to introduce a number of gender-specific amendments to this proposal, from a stronger gender balance on the management board and the stakeholder group, a requirement to include a separate chapter on gender equality in ELA's activity reporting, analysis and studies, stressing that the data compiled by ELA should be gender-disaggregated, to the inclusion of EIGE among the European executive agencies with which a cooperation shall be established.

[Link to Procedure](#)

Care services in the EU for improved gender equality - Consideration of draft report

The rapporteur for this strategic report, Ms Sirpa Pietikäinen (EPP, Finland) looks at the care services within the context of the Commission's work-life balance proposal and emphasizes the importance of the availability of diverse, quality, accessible and affordable childcare and care for other dependants either at home or in home-like situations. The rapporteur further analyses the types and the quality of services noting that regardless of the differences between the users to which they cater (early childhood care and education, care services for the elderly to care for persons with disabilities), care services should be developed in a comprehensive fashion. The draft report discusses the targets for development of different services and finally includes recommendations to the Member States related to the funding of care infrastructure and services.



[Link to the procedure](#)

Presentation of the Council Presidency's programme by Juliane Bogner-Strauß, Federal Minister within the Federal Chancellery for Women, Families and Youth, Austria



On 10 July the FEMM Committee welcomed, from the Council Presidency, Juliane Bogner-Strauß, Federal Minister within the Federal Chancellery for Women, Families and Youth, Austria. The Minister presented the Council Presidency's programme and priorities for the upcoming term and discussed with the FEMM members on topics such as the gender pay gap, the work-life balance Directive and the EU accession to the Istanbul Convention.

Measures to prevent and combat mobbing and sexual harassment at workplace, in public spaces, and political life in the EU - Vote

The draft report, whose rapporteur is Pina Picierno (S&D, Italy), stresses the urgent need for an increased knowledge and understanding of the risks and consequences of violence and harassment at work, in public spaces, and in political life in order to find possible ways and methods to address them. It also emphasises the importance of clarifying the terms, definitions and classifications used in relation to different types of sexual and gender-based violence. The draft report was adopted by 21 votes in favour to zero votes against with 5 abstentions.

[Link to the procedure](#)



General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2019 - all sections - Adoption of budget amendments



The budgetary amendments are part of the annual budgetary procedure for the 2019 EU budget. The budgetary amendments proposed by the rapporteur are focused, among others, on topics such as sexual and reproductive health and rights, the protection from violence of refugees and asylum seekers, including women and girls and LGBTIQI, the role of women in conflict prevention and reconciliation and the implementation of the Istanbul Convention. Proposals for pilot projects and preparatory actions are also submitted as budgetary amendments. In total 41 budgetary amendments were adopted.

Gender Budgeting: State of Play and way forward - Adoption of question for oral answer

According to the Council of Europe gender budgeting is a 'gender based assessment of budgets incorporating a gender perspective at all levels of the budgetary process and restructuring revenues and expenditures in order to promote gender equality'. Gender budgeting has 3 main goals: to promote transparency in the fiscal planning; to warranty a gender active participation in the budgetary process and, finally to improve gender equality and women's empowerment.



The oral question aims to know, among other things, which gender-responsive elements are applied in the current MFF; how will the Commission show leadership to guarantee that gender budgeting; if the Commission will establish a clear mention of gender equality in one of the MFF headings; how will the Commission improve an exchange of knowledge on gender budgeting among Member States and local authorities; and how it will monitor and assess the way gender equality is integrated in EU (co)-funding implementation.

The question for oral answer was adopted by 21 votes in favour to 2 votes against with 4 abstentions.

General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2019 - all sections - Consideration of the Accompanying Resolution



The rapporteur, Ms Malin Björk (GUE/NGL, Sweden), presented her draft opinion to the accompanying resolution on the 2019 EU budget. The priorities include the use of gender budgeting, especially when negotiating the next multiannual financial framework; the increase of funding for existing instruments at EU and Member States level aimed at upholding women's economic rights and reduce gender inequality; and the call on the Member States to make use of the EU funds available to promote gender equality through education and health services. The draft opinion also calls for the EU to promote women's organisations, women's rights, and the empowerment of girls and women's representation in decision-making through EU development aid. It also stresses the need to increase resources for combating all forms of violence against women and girls, as well as gender-based violence against LGBTQI people.

[Link to the procedure](#)

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Our next Committee meetings will take place on 3 and 27 September. In these meetings, we will discuss, among others, the following topics:

- Annual report on human rights and democracy in the world and the European Union's policy on the matter - Consideration of draft opinion;
- Proposal for a regulation of the EU Structural Funds - Adoption of draft opinion;
- Humanitarian Visas - Adoption of draft opinion;
- Gender Budgeting: State of Play and way forward - Adoption of motion for a resolution;
- Experiencing Backlash in Women's Rights and Gender Equality in the EU - Adoption of a question for oral answer and a motion for a resolution;
- Care services in the EU for improved gender equality - Consideration of amendments;
- Accompanying Resolution of General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2019 - Consideration of amendments and adoption of draft report;
- Care services in the EU for improved gender equality - Adoption of draft report;
- Establishing a European Labour Authority - Adoption of draft opinion;
- Gender equal workplaces: best practices and use of care services - Hearing;
- Gender equality and Taxation policies in the EU - Consideration of joint draft report (ECON/FEMM).

BULLETIN

EIGE



Is your parliament doing enough to advance gender equality?

With the current speed, it will take almost 20 years to achieve gender equality in national parliaments across the EU. Only three Member States have gender-balanced parliaments: Sweden, Finland and Spain. EIGE's new gender-sensitive tool for parliaments gives ideas on needed changes. It helps to identify where parliaments stand on their way to gender equality and proposes steps for every parliament to improve.

More info in this [link](#)

Link to the [toolkit](#)



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