

Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection  
The Chair

PC/ic  
D(2017)4727

D 301654 06.02.2017

Ms Vilija BLINKEVIČIŪTĖ  
Chair of FEMM Committee  
ASP 14G305  
Brussels

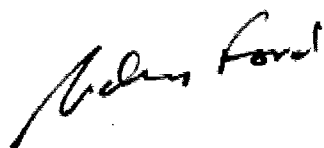
**Subject: Action plan on Gender Equality**

Dear Chair,

I am pleased to inform you that, upon recommendation of the FEMM committee, the IMCO committee Coordinators approved on 25 January 2017 the IMCO Action Plan on gender equality upon the draft suggestion of our colleague Mr Sergio Cofferati who represents IMCO in the Gender Mainstreaming Network. Please find here in Annex the adopted Action Plan.

Allow me to also take this opportunity to congratulate you on your recent election as Chair of the FEMM committee. I look forward to a continuous and effective cooperation between our two committees.

Yours sincerely,



Vicky FORD

Cc: FEMM Committee Secretariat  
MEP Sergio Cofferati

Annex: IMCO Action Plan on Gender Equality

## **Action Plan on Gender Mainstreaming of the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO)**

Gender equality is firmly embedded in the EU's founding values (Art.2-3 TEU). Promotion of gender equality is also listed as a cross-cutting task that the EU must take into account in all its activities (Art.8 TFEU). Incorporating a gender perspective in all policies, at all levels and all stages - *gender mainstreaming* - aims at ensuring that EU policies contribute to reduce gender inequalities.

Having regard to the European Parliament resolutions from 13 March 2003, 17 November 2011 and 8 March 2016 on gender mainstreaming in the work of the European Parliament, and to recommendations made by the Gender Mainstreaming Network, the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection draws up the following actions to be implemented in its work:

### **A. Organisation of the committee's work:**

Distribution of written material and training. The Committee should offer members, assistants and staff of the secretariat information on best practices in the area of gender mainstreaming and, where useful, should offer them gender mainstreaming training opportunities.

Selection of staff. The selection of staff should be carried out with the goals of gender balance and equal representation of women and men.

Gender neutral language. All documents related to the work of the Committee should use gender neutral language (EP Guidelines "Gender neutral language in the European Parliament"). Special attention should be paid to Committee reports and opinions and studies commissioned by the Committee.

Ensuring gender balance. The committee should, where possible, strive for gender balance when it comes to appointments and distribution of reports and opinions, as well as when determining the composition of delegations, working groups and missions.

Hearings and workshops. When organising hearings, there should be a gender balance of experts and invited speakers.

### **B. In the area of policies:**

Underlines the importance to take action to ensure that consumers' protection and internal market policies contribute to reduce gender inequalities. Stresses the need to address in this context also existing gender-based inequalities amongst consumers in the digital single market, in e-commerce and e-retail, in access to services and goods.

1. Reports and opinions. Whenever relevant, a gender perspective is integrated into reports and opinions. In preparing reports and opinions, due attention is given to available studies and analyses on gender equality and women's rights carried out by the European Parliament

policy departments and impact assessment units as well as other organisations outside the European Parliament.

2. Gender-sensitive quantitative and qualitative indicators. Whenever relevant, the committee highlights the importance of, and calls on the relevant EU institutions to use, gender-sensitive quantitative and qualitative indicators and to gather gender disaggregated data in the monitoring and evaluation of policies, specific legislation, programs and projects, and within the framework of impact assessments.

3. Studies. The Committee should aim to contribute to improving the knowledge and research about gender issues (including gender representation and participation in decision-making processes) in consumers' protection and internal market areas and about any need for differentiated gender-based solutions. The committee may request to produce such a study when necessary. When using statistics and tables, gender disaggregated data should be included where relevant.

4. Hearing and exchanges of views. The Committee should consider and discuss also gender-related issues in dealing with policies or pieces of legislation and should contribute to the sharing of experiences and good practices from regions and member states regarding consumers' and internal market policies aiming at ensuring gender equality. Effective interaction with bodies in charge of the implementation and promotion of gender mainstreaming within the European Parliament and outside is welcomed.

5. LGBTI. Also the situation of other vulnerable groups, including the LGBTI people, should be taken into adequate consideration, where relevant.

### **C. Gender mainstreaming checklist for the organisation of hearings, exchanges of views, workshops**

How was the gender balance regarding the speakers respected?

How was gender neutral language used when preparing documents for the hearing and during the hearing?

If relevant, were gender-related issues considered?

### **D. Monitoring and evaluation of the gender action plan**

Implementation of this action plan is followed regularly by the member responsible for gender mainstreaming assisted by the secretariat.