

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2019

NOTE FROM THE CHAIR



Dear Readers,

The latest FEMM committee meeting was held on 26-27 February. We voted on two files: Women's role in preventing radicalization as well as the opinion to AGRI committee on CAP Strategic Plans. We had very interesting discussions with the guest parliamentarians from Georgia and with the civil society representatives on the coming elections and the political engagement of women. We discussed the situation of women in labour and social affairs with the experts in the public hearing and organized the last meeting of the EP's gender mainstreaming network to conclude this legislative term. You will find more about each of these agenda items in this newsletter.

Finally, I wish to invite you to join us for the inter-parliamentary meeting on 7 March, which is our traditional way of honouring the International Women's Day. This year, the topic will be Women's Power in Politics, which is at the heart of women's rights because it defines women's capacity to participate and decide on the collective governing of our societies.

Please find here [more information](#) and join us in person or by [webstream](#) and on social media with [#womenspowerinpolitics](#).

LAST COMMITTEE MEETINGS

26 - 27 FEBRUARY

Opinion on CAP Strategic Plans - Vote



The Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality adopted its opinion on the European Commission's proposal for the strategic plans to be drawn up by Member States under the Common agricultural policy and financed by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund and by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (the "CAP Strategic Plans") with 26 votes for, 3 against and 4 abstentions. The rapporteur for the opinion Marijana Petir (EPP, Croatia) found it crucial to strengthen the position of women in rural areas, to increase the proportion of women who receive support under the CAP and to increase the share of young women who receive support for the establishment of agricultural holdings or businesses under the CAP. The lead committee AGRI will vote its

report in April.

[Link](#) to the procedure

Oral question + draft motion for resolution on Women's role in preventing radicalisation — Vote

FEMM Committee members voted the oral question and a draft resolution on the "Women's role in preventing radicalisation". The rapporteur Teresa Jiménez Becerril (EPP, Spain) sheds light in both oral question and resolution on the phenomena that not only men, but a growing number of women are getting radicalised and on the different paths towards radicalisation where internet and social media play an important role. To tackle and prevent radicalisation, she puts forward questions to the Commission on its strategy, cooperation with other European institutions and the use of funds. While women, and especially female family members who are the first ones to spot signs of radicalisation within their environment, can play a central part in prevention, the rapporteur also hints at the active role that women play in the preparation and in committing terrorist acts. She suggests that the right information and tools, creating counter-narratives and using programs to fund prevention campaigns will help tackling women's radicalisation.



The oral question was adopted. The draft motion for resolution was adopted by 17 votes in favour to 16 against.

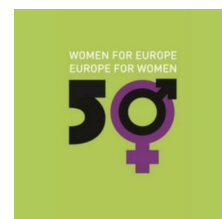
Exchange of views on Gender Equality in Georgia



FEMM Committee held an exchange of views with Ms Tamar Chugoshvili, Vice-Speaker of the Georgian Parliament and Head of Gender Equality Council and Ms Tamar Khulordava, Chair of Committee on EU Integration. This was an opportunity for the Members of the Georgian Parliament to showcase the work carried out in past years in the country and discuss further action plans and challenges ahead.

Exchange of views on 50/50 Campaign with European Women's Lobby

The Members discussed one of the most fundamental questions of the upcoming European elections in May 2019: as a result of the elections, how substantial will be the share of female decision-makers and holders of EU top jobs and what will be the impact of that outcome on the future of European politics, the future of women and girls in Europe? FEMM has invited Gwendoline Lefebvre, President of the European Women's Lobby which is initiating the "Campaign 50/50: Women for Europe – Europe for Women", as well as Alessia Centioni, President of the European Women Alliance who discussed what is at stake in this European election from the women's point of view and how to ensure equality between women and men in European politics and policy-making.



Public Hearing on the labour and social situation of women in the EU



In the context of the development of measures aimed at reconciling work and family life and following a decade of economic and financial crisis, it is essential to monitor the evolution of the labour and social situation of women in the EU. The hearing had a double focus, examining two inter-related issues: unemployed young women and the women in precarious sectors who are at risk of poverty. Two-thirds of NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training) are women, some are registered as unemployed, but others not. Questions on the causes and consequences of this phenomenon as well as on the targeted actions, which could be undertaken by the Member States to remedy the situation, were examined. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), vulnerable employment is on the rise, reflecting high rates of underemployment, dissatisfied workers and a growing incidence of involuntary part-time contracts. As we know very well, many of the workers affected by these negative trends are female. This part of the hearing looked into the hardships and disadvantages women working in precarious sectors face.

The experts who participated in the discussion were **Iga Magda**, Assistant Professor, Warsaw School of Economics and Vice-President, Institute of Structural Research; **Cristina Rovira Izquierdo**, Senior Inequality Programme Advisor, OXFAM Spain; **Montserrat Mir**, Confederal Secretary, ETUC and **Lina Salanauskaite**, Researcher/Analyst, EIGE.

The Network of Members in charge of Gender Mainstreaming heard the presentations of Action plans on gender equality adopted by four committees – Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE), Committee on Culture and Education (CULT), Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) and Subcommittee on Security and Defence (SEDE). The representatives from those committees presented the actions and tools they are using in order to ensure gender equality in the organisation of their work and with regards to policy work. In this sense, they were referring to integration of gender perspective into draft reports and opinions, to having gender-balanced panels of experts at hearings and workshops or to organising events on gender-related issues. The committees also reported their aim to have gender equal representation in missions and delegations, to have equal distribution of reports and opinions between women and men, to the use of gender-fair and inclusive language, to have trainings on gender mainstreaming and other measures. All action plans of the EP committees can be found [here](#).



The Network also welcomed Director General of DG COMM of the Parliament Mr Jaume DUCH who presented Inclusive communication Guidelines for DG COMM output. These internal guidelines have been drafted with the purpose of setting out how DG COMM will ensure equal representation of women and men in all communication outputs, as well as effective outreach and engagement with women and men alike. Members of the Network welcomed these guidelines and stressed the importance of having communication with a stronger and a more active gender perspective, especially in preparing the campaign for the European elections in 2019.

MISSION TO SPAIN

28 FEBRUARY - 1 MARCH

From 28 February to 1 March, a mission of seven FEMM Members visited Madrid (Spain). The aim of the mission was to assess the Spanish policies to combating gender-based violence in the framework of the implementation of the State Agreement on this field adopted in 2017.

The mission visited the Secretary of State of Equality, the Government Office for Gender-based Violence, the Spanish Congress, Madrid Regional Minister on Social Policies and the High Council of the Judiciary among other institutions. Members also met women's rights organisation supporting women victims of gender-based violence.



The Head of the Mission, Ms Mary Honeyball (S&D, United Kingdom), highlighted “the great effort that Spain has been undertaking to combat gender-based violence since 2004, when the Law on combating Gender-Based Violence was unanimously adopted”.

She added that, “during our mission, we have witnessed how public authorities, from different levels of government and from the legislative and judicial powers, are working together in order to implement the provisions of the Istanbul Convention”.

Finally, she stressed that “the State Pact agreed in 2017, which includes 214 measures, is an excellent example of how gender-based violence should be tackled in order to make the Istanbul Convention a reality. Spain has set a standard for other Member States on the way different political parties can find a common ground to combat gender-based violence.”

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The next meetings will be held on

- 7 March 2019, 9.00 – 12.30 (Brussels)

Women's power in politics - Inter-parliamentary Committee Meeting on occasion of International Women's Day (for more information, see [here](#))

- 2 April 2019, 15.00 – 18.30 (Brussels)

Then we will vote and discuss, among others, the following topics:

- Vote on Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions in budget 2020
- Exchange of views with the Vice-President of the Parliament Mr Papadimoulis on Parliament's Gender Action Plan
- Women's role in peace processes -- public hearing
- Dialogue with NGOs about intersectional forms of discrimination
- Exchange of views with Leyla Güven, Kurdish human rights defender

BULLETIN

EIGE



EIGE's new guide helps estimate the risk of female genital mutilation

EIGE has published an updated [step-by-step guide](#) to assess the number of girls at risk of female genital mutilation. The fine-tuned methodology will assist those responsible for carrying out risk estimations in a region or country of the EU. It will help Member States monitor the risk of FGM in their country and check if policies to combat the practice are working. EIGE's unique methodology has 14 concrete steps that combine data and information gained from real life testimonials. The updated guide builds on EIGE's previous methodology, which was refined during recent research to estimate the number of girls at risk of FGM in Belgium, Greece, France, Italy, Cyprus and Malta. Read more [here](#).

STUDIES

The following briefing was delivered by the European Parliament's Research Service (EPRS) at the request of the FEMM Committee.



Victims of trafficking in hotspots

This briefing looks at the risks of exploitation faced by people leaving their countries in search of safety or better lives and arriving in Europe by sea. It gives an overview of the processes related to early identification of victims of trafficking in first reception facilities (hotspots) and the related challenges.

[Link to the briefing](#)



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