

## NEWSLETTER APRIL 2019

### NOTE FROM THE CHAIR



Dear Readers,

Our meeting of 2 April was the last Committee meeting of this legislature. This is also the last newsletter of the term and I would like to devote my words to the main topics we have covered during the last five years. There have been many interesting initiatives since 2014 but I want to highlight those within the following fields: work-life balance, the combat against gender-based violence and the #MeToo movement.

The fight for equality starts at home. Both parents should be equally responsible for the care of their children and dependant relatives. From all the initiatives related to this aim, I would like to call your attention to one of them: the Directive on work-life balance for parents and carers. The Directive will guarantee that fathers or

second parents will be able to take at least 10 working days of paid paternity leave. It also establishes an individual right to 4 months parental leave, from which at least 2 months are paid and non-transferable between the parents. The Directive will also introduce a new carers' leave for workers caring for relatives in need of support due to medical reasons.

Combating gender-based violence is one of the key tasks of our Committee. For that reason the EU accession to the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (the Istanbul Convention), is one of our strategic objectives. The closing legislature has witnessed the signature of the Istanbul Convention by the EU in June 2017 but it has not been ratified yet. The Parliament adopted a Resolution in September 2017 calling for the complete accession to the Convention by the EU and all the Member States that haven't done so yet. We will keep pushing to get the final decision of the Council in order to conclude the accession to a Convention that will bring the Union a key tool to tackle gender-based violence.

The #MeToo movement has had the power to place on the international agenda the outrageous reality of sexual harassment. According to the Fundamental Rights Agency, up to 55 % of women have been sexually harassed in the EU; 32 % of all victims in the EU reported that the perpetrator was a superior, colleague or customer; and 61 % of women were employed in the service sector. At the Parliament, we have adopted a resolution on "Measures to prevent and combat mobbing and sexual harassment at workplace, in public spaces, and political life in the EU". Among the several recommendations is a call to include mandatory training for all staff and Members of the European Parliament.

Two final messages: firstly, thank you for coming to our meetings or following us via webstream and secondly, vote in the [European elections in May!](#)

# LAST COMMITTEE MEETING

2 APRIL

## Women's role in peace processes - Hearing



Women's participation in conflict prevention and resolution can improve outcomes before, during and after conflicts.

The hearing explored how women have participated in peace processes and which impact and added value their participation had. One part of the hearing was devoted to the specific case of the Western Balkans. Four experts have been invited to take part in the hearing and a study commissioned by the policy department was also presented during the event.

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

## Dialogue with NGOs about intersectional forms of discrimination - Exchange of views

FEMM held an exchange of views with NGOs about intersectional forms of discrimination. It allowed Members to explore different perspectives of different groups of women, with a specific focus on intersectional discrimination of women linked namely to race, ethnicity and religion. Guests invited for the dialogue were Isabela Michalache, Advocacy Officer at the European Network Against Racism and Violeta Naydenova, Senior Policy Analyst at the Open Society European Policy Institute.



## European Parliament's Gender Action Plan - Exchange of views

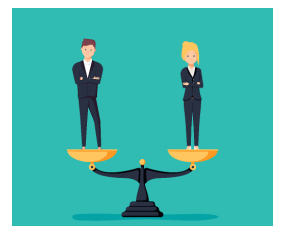


The Parliament adopted amendments to its Rules of Procedure on 31 January 2019 and one of the Rules - Rule 228a - concerns Gender Mainstreaming. The rule says: "The Bureau shall adopt a gender action plan aimed at incorporating a gender perspective in all Parliament's activities, at all levels and all stages. The gender action plan shall be monitored bi-annually and reviewed at least every five years." FEMM Committee members listened to the information about the drafting of this Action plan, presented by the Parliament Vice-President Evelyne Gebhardt, who is also a Member of High Level Group on Gender Equality and Diversity. FEMM invited all members of this High Level Group to this exchange of views.

## Gender Mainstreaming in Committees and Delegations of the European Parliament - Presentation of a Study

The Study on Gender Mainstreaming in Committees and Delegations of the European Parliament, provides an update of a previous study published in 2014. It is meant to assess to what extent the FEMM Committee contributed to the effective implementation of gender mainstreaming in the European Parliament activities between July 2017 and July 2018. The study was presented by one of its authors: Manuela Samek Lodovici, IRS-Istituto per la Ricerca Sociale, Italy.

[Link to the Study](#)



## EIGE

### EIGE's Website Has a New Face



EIGE has re-designed its website to make it clearer, more accessible, and friendlier to new and returning users. It is now easier to find the latest information on gender equality and use our many resources.

Key features of the website:

- New [topic pages](#) give an overview of gender equality in your area of work and provide links to all our information. You can choose agriculture, energy or any of the other 20 topics available.
- New [country pages](#) let you pick your own country and easily see what relevant

resources we have online

- New [project pages](#) present all of EIGE's projects since we started working until today
- A [language menu](#) makes it easier to find translations of EIGE's publications

Explore the new website [here](#).

## LATEST STUDIES

### Gender Responsive EU Budgeting

This is an update of the study 'The EU Budget for Gender Equality' and review of its conclusions and recommendations. Based on desk-based and empirical research, this Study finds that the absence of overall and consistent commitment to gender equality in the EU budget and the budgetary process continues. As a result, the Study calls on the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union to take legislative action to anchor gender equality to all policies that receive funding from the EU budget.



[Link to the study](#)

### Women in political decision-making in view of the next European elections



The Study analyses women's representation within the European Parliament and European Union institutions, key factors affecting gender balance among elected representatives, and strategies and actions to promote gender balance. It also presents case studies of three Member States conducted through the lens of parity democracy, and issues recommendations for political parties, Member States, and EU institutions.

[Link to the study](#)

The study analyses the countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of North Macedonia<sup>1</sup>, Kosovo<sup>2</sup>, Montenegro and Serbia and is executed so as to address the following issues:

1. Economic-social factors relevant to women's rights,
2. Violence against women (VAW), including membership of the Istanbul convention and
3. Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and LGBTI rights.



[Link to the study](#)

---

<sup>1</sup> As the study was finished in November 2018, the Republic of North Macedonia is still named in the text as the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

<sup>2</sup> In the study all references to Kosovo, its territory, institutions or population, shall be understood in full compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice as to the status of Kosovo.

---



**Contact the editor:**

FEMM secretariat: [femm-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:femm-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu)

FEMM website : [www.europarl.europa.eu/femm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/femm)