

### NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2019

#### NOTE FROM THE CHAIR



Dear Readers,

Since December 1<sup>st</sup> the new Commission finally started its work and we, the Members of the FEMM Committee, have high expectations.

We have to achieve economic independence for women in Europe. Within the European Parliament, we have already started to work on these issues intensively. We have adopted an oral question to the Commission with regards to closing the Gender Pay Gap and we have started our work on the Gender Equality Strategy. Together with important stakeholders we are about to draft our demands for an effective gender equality strategy, which has to lead to same chances for women and men all over Europe.

We are prepared to continue our ambitious work next year. Until then, I wish you nice holidays and a happy new year.

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#### LAST COMMITTEE MEETINGS

##### 2 DECEMBER

##### **The EU accession to the Istanbul Convention - Joint exchange of views LIBE-FEMM**

FEMM and LIBE committees held a joint exchange of views on the EU accession to the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (also known as the Istanbul Convention). The aim of this exchange of views was to analyse the situation of the EU accession to the Istanbul Convention and to discuss potential options to move the ratification forward.

The event counted with the participation of a representative from the Finnish Presidency of the Council, a member of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (the Venice Commission) and a representative of a civil society organisation, the European Women's Lobby. The co-rapporteurs for this file, Ms Spurek (S&D, Poland) from LIBE and Ms Kokalari (EPP, Sweden), and the European Commission also participated in the exchange of views.

[Link to the EP info on the accession to the IC](#)

[Link to the EP Resolution of November 2019 on the Istanbul Convention](#)

##### 4 DECEMBER



##### **The EU Strategy for Gender Equality - Hearing - 4.12.2019**

On 4 December, FEMM Committee held a hearing on the EU Strategy for Gender Equality (2020-2024). The aim of the Hearing was to receive input from civil society and the

academic world on the incoming European Commission proposal for the Strategy.

The event counted on the participation of a representative of the European Commission, several representatives of the civil society organisations covering the different aspects of the Strategy and a member of the academic world.

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

## 5 DECEMBER

### **International Conference on Population and Development - Consideration of amendments**

In view of the ICPD25 Summit in Nairobi FEMM - jointly with DEVE - is working on a motion for a draft resolution. The text looks into the main commitments of the Summit: zero unmet need for family planning, zero preventable maternal deaths and zero gender-based violence and harmful practices against women, girls and youth. It also proposes the way forward in terms of the political and funding commitments. The draft resolution is foreseen to accompany an oral question to the Commission/Council and will be finalised after the Summit. During the meeting, FEMM and DEVE committees considered the 209 amendments tabled to the draft resolution. The draft resolution will accompany an oral question to both the Commission and to Council, which is also being discussed.

Procedure: 2019/2850

Rapporteur: Evelyn Regner

Join vote in FEMM/DEVE: 22-23.01.2020

### **Generation Equality Forum - Exchange of views**



Members of the FEMM Committee held an exchange of views regarding the Generation Equality Forum with representatives of UN Women, the Mexican Embassy before the European Union and the UN Women's Global Forum. The Generation Equality Forum is a civil society-centred, multi-stakeholder, global gathering for gender equality, convened by UN Women and co-hosted by the governments of Mexico and France. The Forum will kick off in Mexico City, Mexico (7–8 May 2020), and culminate in Paris, France (7–10 July 2020).

### **Presentation of the Gender Equality Index**

The Gender Equality Index is a comprehensive measure for assessing the state of the art and monitoring progress in gender equality across the EU over time. The Index measures gender gaps and takes into account the context and different levels of achievement of Member States within a range of relevant policy areas: work, money, knowledge, time, power and health. It also covers violence in a satellite index.

The Index, which was presented to the FEMM Committee by EIGE Director Ms Virginija Langbakk, 67.4% for 2019. Last year's index was 66.2%. At the start of the index in 2005, the index measured 62% (100% would mean complete gender equality).

[Link to the Gender Equality Index 2019](#)

### **2018 discharge opinions - Consideration of amendments**

FEMM Members considered the amendments to the draft opinions of the discharges of the budget 2018 for the Commission and the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE).

On the Commission the draft opinion makes several requests such as: the implementation of gender budgeting in the budgetary process; the need to specify the resources allocated to each of the objectives devoted to gender equality of the REC programme; or the need to make a greater effort in the integration of the gender perspective in the fields of research and innovation. Members tabled 26 amendments.

On EIGE the draft opinion, based on the positive opinion of the Court of Auditors with regard to the EIGE's annual account for the financial year 2018, considers that the discharge can be granted. Members tabled 20 amendments.

Procedures: 2019/2055(Commission)  
2019/2089 (EIGE)

Rapporteur: Frances Fitzgerald

Vote in FEMM: 22.01.2020

Vote in CONT: 20.02.2020

[Link to the OEIL](#) (Commission)

[Link to the OEIL](#) (EIGE)

## **Gender-based discrimination in the Western Balkans - Exchange of views**

FEMM Committee held an exchange of views on gender-based discrimination in the Western Balkans and hereby discussed an interesting report.

Supported by the European Union with co-funding from Swedish Development Cooperation as part of a regional initiative to address gender-based discrimination in the Western Balkans, the report includes a comparative analysis of relevant legal frameworks in the region and their harmonization with the EU Gender Equality Acquis; the prevalence and nature of labour-related gender-based discrimination; how institutions have treated such cases; and targeted recommendations.

[Link to the report](#)

## **NEXT COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

FEMM Committee will meet again on 22 and 23 January 2020. Then we will deal, among others, with the following topics:

- Resolution on the International Conference on Population and Development - Vote
- Discharge procedure 2018 (Commission and EIGE draft opinions) - Vote
- Council Presidency, Exchange of Views - Presentation by Vesna Bedeković, Croatian Minister for Demography, Family, Youth
- European Semester for economic policy coordination: Employment and Social Aspects - Vote

## **EIGE**

## **BULLETIN**

### **Gender equality in EU parliaments – the results are in**



EIGE examined gender equality in parliaments across the EU and the results show a mixed picture. While the rise of electoral gender quotas has contributed to increasing numbers of women MPs and MEPs,

the experience of women and men can differ once elected. While men dominate committees dedicated to budgets and infrastructure, women are more commonly found on committees dealing with sociocultural issues, such as education or human rights. For a more detailed analysis, parliaments can take an in-depth survey, using EIGE's gender-sensitive parliaments tool. Explore the results online or check our fact sheet. Read the full report and watch our video to learn more.

[Link to the gender-sensitive parliaments tool](#)

[Link to the fact sheet](#)

[Link to the full report](#)

## **LAST BRIEFINGS**

[Commitments made at the hearing of Helena DALLI, Commissioner-designate - Equality](#)

[Violence against women in the EU: State of play](#)

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