

NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2020

NOTE FROM THE CHAIR



Dear Readers,

The year 2020 is still young and in the European Parliament, we kicked it off with a [resolution on the gender pay gap](#). This is very

important because economic independence is crucial for women to lead a self-determined life. Even though the principle of equal pay for equal work has always been enshrined in the EU treaties and discrimination between men and women with regards to any component of the salary is forbidden, women today still earn 16% less per hour than their male colleagues. A big majority in Plenary supported our resolution to close the gender pay gap.

This vote came before the presentation of a Gender Equality Strategy by Commissioner Dalli ahead of the International Women's Day in March. 2020 will be a busy year to fight for Women's rights. Hand in hand with Commissioner Dalli, the FEMM Members are ready to take it on.

Thank you for coming to our meeting or following us via webstream.

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LAST COMMITTEE MEETINGS

22 JANUARY

ICPD25, the Nairobi Summit - Vote

The draft resolution and the oral questions are the response to the Nairobi Summit that marked 25 years since the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo. The draft resolution looks at the three commitments of the Summit: achieving the zero unmet need for family planning, zero preventable maternal deaths and zero gender-based violence and harmful practices against women and girls. It also asks for specific financial and political commitments from the Commission and the Council. The oral questions ask both institutions how they specifically envisage delivering on the Nairobi and Cairo commitments in and outside of the EU.

The oral question to the Council was adopted by 39 votes in favour to 6 votes against. The question to the Commission was adopted by 40 votes in favour to 4 votes against with 1 abstention. The draft resolution was adopted by 39 votes in favour to 5 votes against with 3 abstentions.

Procedure: 2019/2850

Rapporteur: Evelyn Regner

Foreseen vote in Plenary: March I

2018 discharge opinions - Vote



The opinion addresses a series of requests to the Commission, 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; keeping a separate budget line for the Daphne specific objective and the need to make a greater effort in the integration of the

gender perspective in the fields of research and innovation. The opinion was adopted by 19 votes in favour to 5 votes against with 1 abstention.

On the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), the rapporteur, Ms Frances Fitzgerald (EPP, Ireland), based on the positive opinion of the Court of Auditors with regard to EIGE's annual account for the financial year 2018, considers that the discharge can be granted. It also welcomes the outcomes of EIGE's recent chairmanship of the European Justice and Home Affairs Agencies' network, particularly the promotion of actions aimed at combating sexual harassment in the workplace. The opinion was adopted by 20 votes in favour to 5 votes against.

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

Rapporteur: Frances Fitzgerald

Vote in CONT: 20.02.2020

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

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

European Semester: Employment and Social Aspects - Vote

The position in the form of amendments, whose rapporteur is Ms Lina Gálvez (S&D, Spain), covers the main aspects of the European Semester dealing with women's rights. The amendments received focus on, among other topics, the gender employment gap, the gender pay and pension gaps, the quality and access to care services and the presence of more women in decision-making positions.

Members have raised their concern on the occupational and sectorial segregation of the labour market. In the tabled amendments, Members also call on the Member States to harmonize on equal, non-transferable and fully paid maternity and paternity leaves and they welcome the commitment of the new Commission on introducing binding pay transparency measures. 34 amendments were adopted.

Procedure: 2019/2212

Rapporteur: Lina Gálvez

Vote in EMPL: 20.02.2020

[Link to the OEIL](#)

64th session of the UN CSW - Vote



The question for oral answer calls for a renewed commitment to achieve and go beyond the objectives of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA) and inquires into the main elements of the European Union position at the 64th meeting of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UN CSW).

A delegation of the FEMM Committee will attend the sixty-fourth session of the UN CSW between 16-18 March 2020. The main theme of the session will be the review and appraisal of the implementation of the BPfA after 25 years (BPfA+25) and the outcomes of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly. The oral question was adopted by 18 votes in favour to 3 votes against with 2 abstentions.

Procedure: 2019/2967

Rapporteur: Evelyn Regner

Foreseen vote in Plenary: February

[Link to the OEIL](#)

Croatian Presidency - Presentation

Croatia took over the Council Presidency on 1 January 2020. Ms Vesna Bedeković, Croatian Minister for Demography, Family, Youth presented the priorities of the Croatian Presidency of the Council of the EU in the field of women's rights and gender equality. The main priorities of the Croatian Presidency are a Europe that develops, a Europe that connects, a Europe that protects and an influential Europe, focusing on the Multiannual Financial Framework, enlargement policy, Conference on the Future of Europe and Brexit. When it comes to gender, the Presidency will have a strong focus on the equality between women and men and women's empowerment in the labour market.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The FEMM Committee will meet again on 18 February 2020. On this date, we will deal with the following topics, amongst others:

- Structured dialogue with Helena Dalli, Commissioner for Equality - Exchange of views
- Workshop on the "Gender aspect of trafficking in human beings"
- Meeting of the Gender Mainstreaming Network
- Draft position in the form amendments on the Situation of Fundamental Rights in the European Union - Annual Report years 2018-2019 - Vote
- Delegation of Argentinian Members of Parliament regarding women's rights and gender equality in Argentina and Latin America - Exchange of views
- Guidelines for the 2021 Budget - Section III - Consideration of the draft opinion

LAST BRIEFINGS

[FEMM Delegation to Croatia](#)

[Zero tolerance for female genital mutilation](#)

[Towards a new EU gender equality strategy](#)

EIGE

BULLETIN



What's coming up at EIGE in 2020?

This is a big year for EIGE. The EU's agency for gender equality celebrates its tenth anniversary and a new director, Carlien

Scheele, will begin in February. Many exciting projects are coming up: Gender Equality Index 2020 with a special focus on digitalisation, a gender budgeting tool for the EU funds and progress reviews of the Beijing Platform for Action. The Gender Statistics Database will be filled with new data, including information from a recent study on improving data collection on femicide. EIGE will also publish its recommendations to encourage witness reporting of intimate partner violence.

[EIGE's website](#)

Twitter [@eurogender](#)

[EIGE's newsletter](#)

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