

### NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2020

#### NOTE FROM THE CHAIR



Dear Readers,

We have a busy month ahead of us. On March 5, the Commission will present the Gender Equality Strategy for the European Union. Three

days later, we will emphasise our call for equality on the International Women's Day. Additionally, this year we are marking the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and I am looking forward to our FEMM delegation to the CSW64 in New York mid-March.

25 years after the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which paved the way for the worldwide milestone for women's rights, we still have a long way to go. No country in the world has achieved full equality and empowerment for women and girls. Women in Europe and around the world are still facing numerous challenges. A renewed commitment with more ambition, more accountability and more resources is therefore strongly needed.

I am looking forward to further increase our work in the Committee after the presentation of the Gender Equality Strategy. As FEMM Committee, we are calling for a clear political commitment to equality. We are expecting an ambitious strategy, which includes measures to end all forms of discrimination of women in the labour market, tackle violence against women and also takes into account intersectional forms of discrimination.

Let's continue to raise our voices. Let's be loud. On International Women's Day but also on any other day. Because we fight for women's rights.

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

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#### LAST COMMITTEE MEETINGS

##### 18 FEBRUARY

Members voted on 109 amendments and 12 compromise amendments tabled to the LIBE report on the "Situation of Fundamental Rights in the European Union - Annual Report" for the years 2018-2019. The LIBE Committee drafts this report regularly (annually or biennially), which includes considerations on the situation of all fundamental rights in the EU (internal dimension). The FEMM opinion is intended to tackle gender aspects of fundamental rights and women rights. Ms Rafaela (Renew, Netherlands), rapporteur for the opinion, mainly addresses the fight against gender based violence and against all forms of discrimination (including LGBTI+), with a specific attention to multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination. 76 amendments were adopted.

Procedure: 2019/2199

Rapporteur: Samira Rafaela

Vote in LIBE Committee: April 15/16, 2020 (tbc)

Vote in Plenary: May 2020 (tbc)

[Link to the OEIL](#)

#### **Guidelines for the 2021 Budget - Consideration of draft opinion**

The draft opinion to the Guidelines for the 2021 Budget calls for the use of gender budgeting in the EU. It also requests to implement gender mainstreaming consistently in all EU programmes. The draft opinion, of which Mr Robert Biedron (S&D, Poland) is the rapporteur, calls for more investment to uphold the rights of women and girls using budgetary allocations to support women's economic independence through EU programmes and funds, such as COSME, Horizon 2020 and the EFSI.

The rapporteur considers that greater efforts are needed to support the most vulnerable women. The draft opinion also calls for spending on gender equality to be traced and for proper indicators and a dedicated methodology to be established, particularly as regards the fight against gender-based discrimination, violence, sexual harassment and women's access to sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Procedures: 2019/2213

Rapporteur: Robert Biedron

Vote in FEMM : 19.03.2020

Vote in BUDG: 30.03.2020

Vote in Plenary: April II

[Link to the OEIL](#)

## **Gender aspect of trafficking in human beings - Workshop**



Trafficking in human beings (THB) is a serious crime affecting fundamental rights, health, social life, economy and justice. THB knows no boundaries and most reported victims are female. Prof. Sylvia Walby OBE, Professor of Sociology and Director of the Violence and Society Centre at University of London City; Prof. Ryszard Piotrowicz, Dept. of Law and Criminology, Aberystwyth University; Ms Suze Hageman, researcher at Dutch National Rapporteur on THB and Sexual Violence against Children; and Dr Lucrecia Rubio Grundell, researcher at European University Institute were the experts of the workshop. They presented their findings and discussed them with the FEMM Members. The co-rapporteurs of the upcoming implementation report on the Directive on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims, Ms Maria Soraya Rodríguez Ramos (FEMM) and Mr Juan Fernando López Aguilar (LIBE), gave the opening statements.

## **Gender Mainstreaming Network - Exchange of views**



The Network of Members in charge of Gender Mainstreaming met for the first time in this new parliamentary term. The Network is composed of Members appointed by all committees and the Conference of Delegation Chairs and is chaired by the Chair of the FEMM Committee. At its first meeting, the Network held an exchange of views about the ambitious plans within the different committees together with the President of the European Parliament, David Sassoli, who assured his strong support of the GMN.

Additionally, MEP Katalin Cseh from the Budgetary Control Committee introduced their Action plan on Gender mainstreaming, which was adopted on 4 December 2019. Finally, the Members of the Network listened to the presentation of Ms Irena Moozova, Director for Equality and Union Citizenship in the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers of the European Commission, who presented the results of consultations on the Gender Equality Strategy.

## **Women's rights and gender equality in Argentina and Latin America**

On 18 February, Members of the FEMM Committee held an exchange of views with four Members of the Argentinian Chamber of Deputies, who presented the legal and institutional framework applicable to women's rights in Argentina and neighbouring countries. Members of Parliament Sofía Brambilla, Lorena Matzen, Jimena López and Gabriela Estevez presented actions aimed at the promotion and protection of women's rights, equal opportunities policies, the removal of all forms of violence and discrimination based on sex, including women's right to have access to legal, safe and free abortion services.

## NEXT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Our next FEMM Committee meeting is a special one. On 5 March, FEMM will hold an Inter-parliamentary Committee meeting on the occasion of International Women's Day 2020.

[Link](#) to FEMM website for IWD 2020

The FEMM Committee will meet again on 19 March and 26 March 2020. At these meetings, we will deal with the following topics (amongst others):

- Guidelines for the 2021 Budget - Adoption of draft opinion
- The situation of sexual and reproductive health and rights in the EU, in the frame of women's health- Consideration of draft report
- Workshop on "Women's access to abortion care in Europe and beyond"
- General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2021 - Exchange of views with Mr Pierre Larrouturou, BUDG rapporteur

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BULLETIN



### Need help finding gender equality resources?

If you're drafting a report on gender equality, EIGE's collection of grey literature can help. Our library has a huge collection of resources on EU policies, gender indicators, and the situation of gender mainstreaming.

Resources come from government institutions, universities and civil society and are available in several EU languages.

To make it easier to find what you're looking for, EIGE has developed a series of tailor-made reading lists. They briefly present EIGE's grey literature collection in different EU policy areas, from digitalisation to culture.

EIGE collaborates with 19 other libraries to provide access to over half a million resources on gender

equality. To search for resources from your own country, visit EIGE's online library.

We also encourage you to share any relevant materials with us so we can make them available in our online collection. Please contact us: [rdc@eige.europa.eu](mailto:rdc@eige.europa.eu)

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## LAST BRIEFINGS

[Women in Parliaments](#)

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