

NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2020

NOTE FROM THE CHAIR



Dear Readers,

In the last weeks, the work in the FEMM Committee has taken up speed again while ensuring everyone's well-being by remote

meetings and safety measures.

Inequality has been rising for years and Covid-19 has shown us again, how big the gaps are. Many women are disproportionately affected by the current crisis and its aftermath. In Portugal 9 out of 10 people unemployed are women. At the same time women keep up the home schooling, take up even more of the household and care work - all while being underrepresented in decision-making and being paid less.

Last week we thus held not only our first exchange of views on the initiative report on "*The gender perspective in the Covid-19 crisis and the post-crisis period*" but also had the second meeting of the European Parliament's Gender Mainstreaming Network. Members of the FEMM Committee, together with the gender mainstreaming coordinators from all other committees, discussed how the new budget of the European Union, the MFF and the Recovery Plan has to support women in all policy fields and to ensure that funds are allocated equally to close the existing gaps.

Furthermore, we are also preparing for the German presidency of the European Council starting on July 1. It is high time that long blocked files like Women on Boards - now blocked in the Council for 7 years - are taken up again. In our next FEMM Committee meeting on July 3, we will thus have an exchange with the German minister in charge of equality.

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LAST COMMITTEE MEETING

25 JUNE

Reducing inequalities with a special focus on in-work poverty - Vote



FEMM voted on its draft opinion on the EMPL report on "Reducing inequalities with a special focus on in-work poverty" in order to

contribute with the FEMM perspective to the latter. The draft opinion focuses on the fact that women are more affected by flexible work forms, atypical and flexible contracts and are therefore more likely to experience poverty. Other intersectional elements such as single-family households, caring for dependants, disabilities or low education contribute to poverty. Pay and gender gap are also taken into account.

The rapporteur proposed eleven compromise amendments to the 95 amendments that had been tabled. The opinion was adopted by 28 votes in favour to 3 votes against with 4 abstentions.

The gender perspective in the Covid-19 crisis and post-crisis period - Draft report



The report deals with all facets of gender issues related to the crisis and gender mainstreaming of all COVID-19-related measures. The Rapporteur argued that gender and sex have dominated not just the clinical aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic, but also the

response to it. From urgent and pressing issues such as domestic violence and the alarmingly high male mortality rate, to more structural and fundamental questions about the perceived value of different roles in society, it has become apparent that gender has been a crucial aspect of this virus and accompanying crisis. The rapporteur further analyses intersectional and global dimensions of the crisis and provides

recommendations for recovery measures to take gender into account.

Procedure: FEMM/9/02857

Rapporteur: Frances Fitzgerald (EPP)

AI in education, culture and the audiovisual - Draft opinion & amendments



The draft opinion points out that women are significantly underrepresented in the AI sectors. The rapporteur calls for policies targeted

at increasing the participation of women in the fields related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) and Artificial Intelligence (AI). AI has great potential to promote gender equality provided that conscious and unconscious bias are eliminated. Education, culture programmes and audiovisual contents are a fundamental tool for combatting gender stereotypes. 80 amendments to the draft opinion have been tabled.

Procedure: 2020/2017(INI)

Rapporteur: Maria CARVALHO

Vote in FEMM Committee: 13 July 2020

Vote in CULT Committee: 1 October 2020

[Link to the OEIL](#)

Gender Equality in EU's foreign and security policy - Consideration of amendments



FEMM discussed the amendments tabled on the report on Gender Equality in EU's foreign and security policy. The report points out that

achieving gender equality requires the full awareness and unwavering commitment by the EU and its Member States. The report goes in all the different aspects of the theme, namely by describing why and how women and girls are particularly affected by violence, poverty, armed conflicts and the impact of climate change but also by analysing gender equality and equal opportunities in the EU and Member States

institutions and bodies with regard to foreign and security policy. 265 amendments have been tabled.

Procedure: 2019/2167(INI)

Rapporteur: Ernest URTASUN

Vote in FEMM Committee: 13 July 2020

[Link to the OEIL](#)

Risk of a serious breach by Poland of the rule of law - Draft opinion & amendments



The opinion deals with the undermining of women's rights in Poland and of the protection of

adolescents' rights to sexual and reproductive healthcare. The Rapporteur expresses her concerns about two pending draft laws stemming from citizens' initiatives. Recalling the vigorous and legitimate emotions and the protests across the whole country and in Europe, she calls on the Polish authorities to comply with its commitments resulting from the Treaties. She further urges authorities to take all legal measures to protect LGBTI+ people especially at risk today in Poland and to combat all human rights violations faced by them.

The rapporteur proposed twelve draft compromise amendments to the 105 amendments that had been tabled.

Procedure: 2017/0360(NLE)

Rapporteur: Evelyn REGNER

Vote in FEMM Committee: 3 July 2020

Vote in LIBE Committee: 13 July 2020

[Link to the OEIL](#)

Mission to Croatia – 2020 - Endorsement of the mission report



On 30-31 January 2020 FEMM Committee sent a delegation of 4 Members to Zagreb, Croatia to attend the high-level conference

"Participation of women in the labour market -

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benefit for the society" organized by the Croatian Council Presidency and to meet with the main stakeholders. The following FEMM Members participated: Pierrette Herzberger-Fofana (Greens/EFA) – Head of the mission, Jackie Jones (S&D), Annika Bruna (ID) and Predrag Fred Matić (S&D, Accompanying Member). The Conference provided a particularly useful framework for discussions of the economic empowerment of women in the EU with meaningful contributions, whereas the bilateral meetings provided an opportunity to the Members to probe the topic of labour participation as well as wider issues related to gender equality in Croatia in more depth.

During the committee meeting, the mission report was endorsed.

Gender Mainstreaming Network - Exchange of views



The Network of Members in charge of Gender Mainstreaming, composed of parliamentarians

appointed by all committees and the Conference of Delegation Chairs and chaired by the Chair of the FEMM Committee, met to discuss Gender Mainstreaming in the new MFF & Recovery Fund with regards to COVID19.

The Covid-19 crisis is having a wide range of impacts on societies, including a devastating impact on women and, more generally, on gender equality. Therefore, the members of the Network exchanged their views on how to equally distribute investments within the Recovery Fund. Dimitrios Papadimoulis, Vice President of the European Parliament, and Bernhard Windisch, Head of the Performance-based budgeting Unit of the Directorate-General for Budget of the European Commission, joined the Network to discuss this topic.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

The FEMM Committee will meet again remotely on 03 July and 13 July.

Report on Gender equality and long-term care at home



EIGE's report on gender equality and long-term care was published on 25 June 2020, at the request of the Croatian Presidency of the Council of the EU. The report focuses on formal

homebased care across the EU. It looks at different aspects of long-term care that determine women's and men's opportunities to access long-term care services.

More information using this [link](#).

Data talk on intimate partner violence

EIGE has collected the latest available data on intimate partner violence in the EU and published them in the EIGE Gender Statistics Database.

More information using this [link](#)

Gender Equality Index 2020: work in a digital world

It is time to start the countdown for the Gender Equality Index 2020. Has the EU gone forward or backward when it comes to gender equality? Which country will win the award for the most improved? Find out on 29 October when EIGE gives its annual update on the state of gender equality in the EU.

This year, the Gender Equality Index takes a special look at digitalisation in the world of work, and the consequences for gender equality. We will also highlight how digitalisation and the Covid-19 pandemic have affected women and men in their working lives.

As always, the highlight of the Index is the scoring for gender equality in the EU and all Member States. Each country will get a detailed analysis, showing progress since 2010, achievements and areas for improvement.

You can find last year's analysis for your country, translated in the national language and in English [here](#).

For more information, please contact [Zivile Macijauskiene](#)

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