

NEWSLETTER - JULY 2020

NOTE FROM THE CHAIR



Dear Readers,

Before a short summer break, the FEMM Committee held three more committee meetings dealing with topics from gender

equality in the German Presidency of the Council, gender discrimination and the Rule of Law in Poland, National Roma Integration Strategies and Women in Foreign and Security Policy. Thanks to the great coordination between all groups, the work and votes could continue successfully.

In the exchange of views with German Minister Giffey, the FEMM Committee was able to discuss the importance of gender mainstreaming in all policy fields, the unblocking in the Council of the Women on Boards Directive as well as equality on the labour market, including in care work.

In addition, the on-going budget as well as the future budget and recovery plan of the EU have been major topics and will continue to be central to our work in the next months. New statistics from member states have shown that disproportionately more women are affected by the financial aftermath of the Covid-19 crisis. In many countries, 8 to 9 out of 10 people unemployed at the moment are female. An alarming number on which we have to act fast.

Over the summer, we are preparing hearings, oral questions and opinions on topics such as Women on Boards, the MFF and recovery plan and many other important sectors. We will also continue our work for gender mainstreaming within the European Institutions, including the Parliament itself.

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LAST COMMITTEE MEETINGS

3 JULY

Meeting with German Presidency representative - Exchange of views



FEMM Members held an exchange of views with Franziska Giffey, Federal Minister, representative of the

German Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The exchange of views focused on the ongoing legislative files, namely Women on Boards and the EU accession to the Istanbul Convention, as well as equality on the labour market and the recovery from the Covid-19 crisis.

Several MEPs also called for all EU policies, including the next MFF and the recovery plan, to include a gender perspective.

The German Presidency started in the beginning of July and runs until the end of December 2020.

Link: [German Presidency website](#)

Link: [Programme of the German Presidency](#)

Determination of a clear risk of a serious breach by the Republic of Poland of the rule of law - Vote



Two draft laws stemming from citizens' initiatives are now pending before the Polish Parliament: the first one seeks to tighten what

is already one of the most restrictive anti-abortion laws in the EU, and the second one intends to make providing sexual education to minors a criminal offence punishable by imprisonment. While urging the Polish Government to halt consideration of these two draft laws, the EP is invited to express its concerns in general about the backlash of women's rights and the level of protection in Poland of the rights of women and adolescent girls. The opinion puts an emphasis on sexual and reproductive health and on the rights of young LGBTI people, whose health and physical safety are particularly at risk.

In total 105 amendments were tabled, out of which 12 compromise amendments were found to cover the essential issues raised by Members.

The opinion was adopted by 24 votes in favour to 6 votes against with 3 abstentions.

Procedure: FEMM/9/02986

[2017/0360\(NLE\)](#)

Main committee: LIBE

Rapporteur for opinion: Evelyn Regner (S&D)

Report on the implementation of National Roma Integration Strategies - Vote



The opinion urges the Commission to give prominence to Roma women's inclusion in its New Gender Equality Strategy, and to give priority to the gender perspective in the European Framework for

National Roma Integration Strategies (NRIS) after 2020. Different areas where Roma women experience disadvantages are tackled: education, labour market, housing, healthcare, political and social participation. Members voted on 93 amendments tabled and 10 compromise amendments proposed by the Rapporteur.

The opinion was adopted by 27 votes in favour to 7 votes against with 0 abstentions.

Procedure: FEMM/9/02032

[2020/2011 \(INI\)](#)

Main committee: LIBE

Rapporteur: Livia Járóka (PPE)

13 and 16 JULY

Gender Equality in EU's foreign and security policy - Vote



On 16 July, FEMM voted 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 were tabled. The vote on the amendments took place on 13 July.

The final vote took place on 16 July. The report was adopted by 27 votes in favour to 5 votes against with 2 abstentions.

Procedure: FEMM/9/01545

[2019/2167 \(INI\)](#)

Rapporteur: Ernest Urtasun (Verts/ALE)

Implementation of the Dublin III Regulation - Vote



FEMM members adopted a draft opinion in letter form to the LIBE implementation report on this sensitive topic. While recalling that women and girls account for a high share of vulnerable asylum seekers, the draft FEMM opinion stresses the importance to detect and take into

consideration women and girls' needs throughout the entire asylum procedure, expresses concern for the persistent gender-based violence perpetrated namely towards women, condemns the detention of asylum seekers and reminds the importance of family life

and family reunification procedures. The vote on splits and separates took place on 13 July. On 16 July, the opinion in the form of a letter was adopted by 27 votes in favour to 7 votes against with 0 abstentions.

Procedure: FEMM/9/02040

[2019/2206\(INI\)](#)

Main committee: LIBE

Rapporteur: Evelyn Regner (S&D)

General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2021 - all sections - vote - 16.07.2020



The amendments for the Budgetary procedure 2021 proposed by the Rapporteur and Members focus on Daphne strand of the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme and strengthening the fight against all forms of gender-based violence,

on promotion of equality and rights including of gender equality and gender mainstreaming. Further areas of focus are sexual and reproductive health and rights, closing of gender gap when it comes to skills in digitalisation, the ESF+ and the funding of EIGE and FRA. In total 29 amendments were tabled, 11 of which are pilot projects.

On 16 July, 22 budgetary amendments were adopted.

Procedure: FEMM/9/01625

Main committee: BUDG

FEMM Rapporteur for the budgetary procedure 2021: Robert Biedroń (S&D)

Procedural vote on the adoption of the Coordinators' recommendation of 25 June 2020 - FEMM opinion on the DROI report on "Human rights protection and the EU external migration policy"

The Coordinators' recommendation was adopted by 27 votes in favour to 7 votes against with 0 abstentions.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

The next committee meeting will take place on 7 September 2020.

EIGE

Quotas to remedy gender inequality can bring big change

EIGE has published its latest data on women and men in decision-making in Europe.

Key findings on political decision-making:

Men still outnumber women in parliaments across Europe

- In November 2019, two thirds of EU parliamentarians were men (67.8 %) and one-third were women (32.2 %).

Men dominate political party leadership

- In November 2019, women accounted for less than one in five (17.1 %) leaders of major political parties in the Member States.

Less than half of EU countries have legislative quotas...

- Legislative candidate quotas are currently in place in 11 Member States.

...yet quotas can bring big change over time

- The proportion of women members of parliament in countries with legislative candidate quotas has almost doubled since 2004, from 18.2 % to 34.0 %.

Find out more:

[Statistical brief: gender balance in politics](#)

[Statistical brief: gender balance in largest listed companies](#)

[News alert](#)

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