

### NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2020

#### NOTE FROM THE CHAIR



Dear Readers,

September has started with a very busy agenda for all things related to the FEMM Committee.

While closely observing the developments in Belarus and being impressed by the strong female leaders and the peaceful protest they are leading, we also had a close look on the impact of digitalisation on all our lives and how especially the gender data bias significantly impacts the livelihood of women all over Europe.

The budgetary files have continued to be high on our agenda and will continue to be with its great impact on women and gender equality. In all financial measures, it has to be ensured that the group hit hardest by the crisis, namely women, get the support they need in the recovery process.

A highlight of the FEMM Committee in September was our joint hearing with the JURI Committee on the ongoing Directive of Women on Boards. Four renown experts gave us insights about the importance of gender diversity on company boards. Both committees are calling on the Council and the German Presidency to unblock the file and contribute to more equality in senior levels of companies.

To further our efforts in gender mainstreaming, I was invited to join the Conference of Delegation Chairs to explain our approaches and invite all the members to join our gender mainstreaming initiatives and especially also the upcoming Gender Equality Week in the European Parliament at the end of October. I hope to see you all there!

Thank you for following us via webstream.

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#### LAST COMMITTEE MEETINGS

7-10 September

##### The gender dimension in Cohesion Policy - Exchange of views



The draft opinion calls on the Commission and the Member States to step up their efforts to promote gender equality and non-discrimination in Cohesion Policy through effective gender mainstreaming in all the phases of the policy cycle, showing a strong political commitment at the European, national and regional levels. The document points out the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated already existing inequalities, which the Cohesion Policy should take into account by supporting, facilitating and promoting programs that take into consideration gender aspects.

Procedure: 2020/2040(INI)

Link to the OEIL [here](#).

Rapporteur for the opinion: Lena Düpont (PPE)

##### Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education, culture and the audiovisual sector - Vote



Artificial Intelligence (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. The opinion points out that women are significantly underrepresented in the AI sectors and calls for policies targeted at increasing the participation of women in the fields related to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and AI. The opinion was

adopted by 28 votes in favour to 3 votes against with 4 abstentions.

Procedure: 2020/2017(INI)

Link to the OEIL [here](#).

Rapporteur for opinion: Maria Carvalho (PPE)

### **Establishing the EU4Health Programme - Vote**



The Regulation, which establishes the EU4Health Programme, lays down the objectives of the Programme, its budget for the period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2027, the forms of Union funding of the Programme and the rules for providing such funding. 70 amendments were adopted.

Procedure: 2020/0102(COD)

Link to the OEIL [here](#).

Rapporteur for the position in the form of amendments: Chrysoula Zacharopoulou (Renew)

### **Establishing the InvestEU Programme - Vote**



The Regulation, which establishes the InvestEU Fund, provides for an EU guarantee for financing and investment operations carried out by the implementing partners in support of the Union's internal policies. It lays down the objectives of the InvestEU Programme, the budget and the amount of the EU guarantee for the period 2021 to 2027, the forms of Union funding and the rules for providing such funding. 36 amendments were adopted.

Procedure: 2020/0108(COD)

Link to the Oeil [here](#).

Rapporteur for the position in the form of amendments: Frances Fitzgerald (PPE)

### **Establishing a Recovery and Resilience Facility - Vote**



The Regulation, which establishes the Recovery and Resilience Facility, lays down its objectives, the financing, the forms of Union funding and the rules for providing such funding. FEMM Members tabled 81 amendments that intend to tackle gender aspects and women rights in this Facility. 55 amendments were adopted.

Procedure: 2020/0104(COD)

Link to the Oeil [here](#).

Rapporteur for the position in the form of amendments: Sirpa Pietikäinen (PPE)

### **Closing the digital gender gap: women's participation in the digital economy - Exchange of views**



Digitalisation has fundamentally changed most aspects of our lives. Moreover, the Covid-19 crisis and its aftermath are likely to result in permanent changes to life in Europe. Gender stereotypes constitute a serious obstacle to equality between women and men, and further widen the gender gap in the digital sector and prevent women's full participation as users, innovators and creators.

The draft report includes recommendations intended to address the digital gender gap in various areas such as Education, Employment, Media, Culture and Audiovisual Sector, Civic, Political and Economic Participation, Development Policies.

Procedure: 2019/2168(INI)

Link to the Oeil [here](#).

Rapporteur: Maria da Graça Carvalho (PPE)

21-22 September



### Joint JURI-FEMM hearing "Women on Boards"

On 21 September 2020, JURI and FEMM organized a joint hearing on the **'Women on Boards'** proposal ([2012/0299 \(COD\)](#)).

**Juliane Seifert**, Permanent State Secretary at the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, made an introductory statement on behalf of the German Presidency, followed by **Helena Dalli**, European Commissioner for Equality.

Several experts contributed with perspectives from the academic, business and entrepreneurship fields: **Linda Senden**, Professor of European Law at the Utrecht University, **Brid Horan**, Co-chair of "Balance for Better Business", **Paivi Jokinen**, Chairwoman of "European Women on Boards" and **Elke Benning-Rohnke**, Vice-president of "Frauen in die Aufsichtsräte (FidAR)". The presentations were followed by a debate with MEPs from the JURI and FEMM Committees.

### General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2021 - vote



The draft opinion and the 58 amendments called for increased resources for the Daphne strand of the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme, as well as for the ESF+, the Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society Cluster, the EU4Health Programme and for the European Institute for Gender Equality. The opinion was adopted by 26 votes in favour to 5 votes against with no abstention.

Procedure: 2020/1998(INI)

Link to the Oeil [here](#).

Rapporteur for the opinion: Robert Biedroń (S&D)

### The impacts of climate change on vulnerable populations in developing countries - vote



Women are more affected by climate change, face higher risks and bear greater burdens, which reduces their ability to protect themselves from the impact of climate change. However, women and girls are powerful agents of change in particular for climate action. The opinion calls for EU development programmes to promote the meaningful participation and empowerment of women and their organisations at all levels. The opinion was adopted by 26 votes in favour to 5 votes against with no abstention.

Procedure: 2020/2042(INI)

Link to the Oeil [here](#).

Rapporteur for the opinion: Alice Kuhnke (Verts/ALE)

### Old continent growing older - possibilities and challenges related to ageing policy post 2020 - Vote



The position in the form of amendments points out some gender inequalities women face, such as gender pay and pension gap, unequal burden with regard to care, as well as unequal access to health and research in health. The amendments highlight some measures that could be taken at the EU level in order to counterbalance these inequalities exacerbated by an aging population. 123 amendments were adopted.

Procedure: 2020/2008 (INI)

Link to the Oeil [here](#).

Rapporteur for the position in the form of amendments: Christine Anderson (ID)

**“Implementation of Council Directive 2000/78/EC establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation in light of the UNCRPD” - Consideration of draft opinion**



Girls and women with disabilities suffer from various forms of discrimination. Women with disabilities are denied reasonable

accommodation, do not have equal access to the labour market and are at heightened risk of poverty and social exclusion.

The rapporteur calls for awareness-raising campaigns, for better collection of data, for inclusive education, for systematic mainstreaming of the interests and rights of women and girls with disabilities in all national action plans, strategies and policies.

Procedure: 2020/2086 (INI)

Link to the Oeil [here](#).

Rapporteur for the opinion: Rosa Estaràs Ferragut (PPE)

**A strong social Europe for Just Transition - consideration of draft opinion**



The Rapporteur proposes ways and means to put the European Pillar of Social Rights at the heart of economic recovery

programmes and gender equality at the top of this pillar. The draft opinion calls on the Commission to work with the Member States on a common strategy based on equal pay for equal work as the guiding principle, an ambitious investment plan in favour of affordable high-quality childcare, as well as high-quality digital education. It also calls for equal access to technology, training, employment and social

protection for all, especially for vulnerable persons.

Procedure: 2020/2084 (INI)

Link to the Oeil [here](#).

Rapporteur for the opinion: Jadwiga Wiśniewska (ECR)

**Meeting of the Conference of Delegation Chairs**



On 22 September 2020, the FEMM Chair attended the meeting of the Conference of Delegation Chairs (CDC)

and had an exchange of views with the Chairs of the EP delegations on how to boost delegations' contribution to gender equality. All delegations are invited to appoint MEPs in charge of gender mainstreaming. During discussions, the Chairs of delegations expressed their support and commitment to this issue. It was agreed to coordinate actions and to organise in the near future a meeting of the FEMM Chair and MEPs in charge of gender mainstreaming in delegations, as well as a meeting with MEPs in charge of gender mainstreaming in parliamentary committees.

**Further information:**

[Conference of Delegation Chairs](#)

[Gender Mainstreaming Network](#)

## NEXT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The FEMM Committee will meet again on 12 October 2020 and 28-29 October (tbc).

In October, we will deal with the following topics, amongst others:

- Workshop on "Women's access to abortion care in the EU" organised by the Policy Department C;
- "Human Rights and Democracy in the World 2019 and the European Union's

- policy on the matter - annual report 2019”  
 - Consideration of draft opinion;
- “The EU Strategy for Gender Equality” - Vote;
  - “Closing the digital gender gap: women’s participation in the digital economy”- Consideration of amendments
  - “Women and Digitalisation” - Public hearing;
  - Gender Equality Week

## BULLETIN

## EIGE



### New gender and migration brief

EIGE’s new brief on [gender and migration](#) provides detailed guidance on how gender can be mainstreamed in the policy area. It gives an overview about the different experiences of migrant women and men and the challenges they face. Women migrants are more likely to be unemployed or economically inactive than any other group in the EU labour market. The employment rate of women refugees is approximately 45 %, compared to 62 % for refugee men. Women migrants are also vulnerable to gender-based violence. They are at risk of early and forced marriage, transactional sex, rape, sexual harassment and physical assault during the migration process.

### Gender Equality Index 2020 – coming soon

On 29 October, EIGE will reveal the new scores for gender equality in the EU and show trends over time during an online event. Decision-makers and experts will discuss the findings of the Gender Equality Index and areas for improvement, especially around decision-making. The conference will also explore this year’s special focus of the Index - digitalisation in the world of work and the consequences for gender equality. Find out more [here](#).

[EIGE’s website](#)

Twitter [@eurogender](#)

[EIGE’s newsletter](#)

## POLICY DEPARTMENT

### New framework contract



The European Parliament has opened the new framework contract engaging external experts to help and support the FEMM

Committee on regulatory and policy issues in women’s rights and gender equality.

### Further information:

Reference: IP/C/FEMM/FWC/2020-069

Link to the Tenders Electronic daily [here](#)

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