

NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2020

NOTE FROM THE CHAIR



Dear Readers,

We have a very busy month behind us and I want to thank all the Members of Parliament for their support and participation in the First European Gender Equality Week!

Many a committee took part and discussed topics from breast cancer over International trade to security policies to our own hearing with the special committee AIDA on women in digitalisation - and so many more facets of women's roles in society. The highlight was the presentation of this year's Gender Equality Index by ELGE. The alarming number of at least 60 years more until we achieve equality as well as the current pandemic deepening inequalities showed us once again how important our work as a Committee is. Let's make sure we don't go back to the 1950ies but forward to a 2050 of equality and empowered women!

At the beginning of the month we were briefed on abortion rights in the EU which coincided with the recent ruling of the Polish Constitutional Tribunal to limit the access to abortions. Let me remind you that many studies show that this only bans safe abortions not abortions in general. We thus stand with the Polish women and their right to health care and over their own body.

Another important topic of this month was our work together with the LIBE Committee to combat trafficking in human beings. After a successful hearing we finished the Gender Equality Week with an exchange between the rapporteurs and the shadow rapporteurs on this important file. Especially women and children are affected by trafficking so we need to ensure that we properly tackle this issue.

Thank you for following us via webstream.

The Gender Equality Week (October 26-29, 2020)



At the initiative of the FEMM Committee, the European Parliament held its first-ever European Gender Equality Week during the last week of October 2020.

2020 is a special year, marking the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. This important milestone provided an excellent opportunity to discuss the achievements and future challenges for the advancement of girls' and women's rights and gender equality.

The European Gender Equality Week aimed at giving much-needed input to the long lasting battle for women's empowerment and gender equality as well as more visibility and recognition to gender mainstreaming in all policy areas.

Eleven committees took part in the Gender Equality Week and organized debates, exchanges of views and public hearings. Other committees will look into gender mainstreaming aspects in their fields of competences later this year.

For further information, click [here](#)

LAST COMMITTEE MEETINGS

12 October

Women's access to abortion care in the EU - Workshop



On 12 October 2020, the Policy Department C organized this workshop in the context of the own-initiative report on “The situation of sexual and reproductive health and rights in the EU, in the frame of women's health” (Rapporteur: Predrag Fred Matić, S&D).

The invited experts looked into the legal and practical context surrounding access to abortion in different Member States and analysed how the context tied with the wider situation on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Further information: [Programme](#)

Rapporteur: [Predrag Fred Matić, \(S&D\)](#)

28 - 29 October

“The gender perspective in the Covid-19 crisis and post-crisis period” - Vote on amendments

On 28 October 2020, Members voted on the amendments tabled to the draft report.

The draft report and the amendments look at the impact of COVID-19 on women and men, gender-based violence and the economic effects, vulnerable groups, and at the impact outside the EU. Special consideration is given to the recovery package and the measures to be taken.

Procedure: [2020/2121 \(INI\)](#)

Rapporteur: [Frances Fitzgerald \(PPE\)](#)

“The EU Strategy for Gender Equality” - Vote on amendments



On 28 October 2020, Members voted on the amendments tabled to the draft report.

The report welcomes the adoption of the Strategy, delivered timely within the first 100 days of the new Commission as a strong sign for political engagement for European gender equality policies and a decisive, clear and ambitious policy framework to counter attacks on women's rights and gender equality. It underlines the importance of the chosen dual approach consisting of targeted measures and the consequent application of gender mainstreaming and intersectionality as cross-cutting principles.

Procedure: [2019/2169 \(INI\)](#)

Rapporteur: [Maria Noichl \(S&D\)](#)

[EMPL Opinion](#)

EMPL rapporteur for opinion: [Eugenia Rodríguez Palop \(GUE/NGL\)](#)

The gender dimension in Cohesion Policy - Vote on amendments



On 28 October, Members voted on the amendments to the draft opinion.

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. Members have tabled 83 amendments and 15 compromise amendments have been prepared.

Procedure: [2020/2040\(INI\)](#)

Rapporteur for the opinion: [Lena Düpont \(PPE\)](#)

Responsible committee: [REGI](#)

REGI Rapporteur: [Monika Vana \(Verts/ALE\)](#)

Final vote : 9 November 2020

“A strong social Europe for Just Transitions” - vote



On 29 October 2020, Members voted on the draft opinion. The opinion was adopted by 25 votes in favour to 8 votes against with 1 abstention.

The draft opinion calls on the Commission to work with the Member States in particular 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, high-quality digital education and urges equal access to technology, training, employment and social protection for all, especially vulnerable persons.

The vote on amendments took place on 28 October.

Procedure: [2020/2084\(INI\)](#)

Rapporteur for the opinion: [Evelyn REGNER \(S&D\)](#)

Responsible committee: [EMPL](#)

EMPL rapporteurs: [Dennis Radtke \(PPE\)](#), [Agnes Jongerius \(S&D\)](#)

Joint LIBE - FEMM Hearing on “Trafficking in human beings”



On 26 October 2020, the LIBE and FEMM committees jointly organized this hearing in relation to the joint report on the Implementation of

Directive 2011/36/EU. The Directive represents the main instrument for combatting trafficking in human beings within the EU.

The event represented a good opportunity to hear several organisations' representatives and

experts' contributions as regards the gaps in the present legislation and in the implementation of the directive. The debate also looked into which measures would be needed at EU and national levels to reinforce the application of the Directive.

Programme of the hearing and relevant information [here](#)

Implementation report - [procedure](#)

[Directive 2011/36/EU](#)

Women and digitalisation - Hearing



Women and Digitalisation



Chaired by
Evelyn REGNER, Chair of the FEMM Committee

The hearing will be shared: [https://www.congressvideo.com/watch/1441513545](#)

FEMM Committee, in association with AIDA Special Committee, held a public hearing on “Women and digitalisation” on 28 October 2020.

How to tackle the gender digital gap? Which gender aspects need to

be taken into consideration when developing AI policies and legislation? How to increase the participation of girls and women in digital fields?

Such questions were raised while exploring the gender aspects of the digital transition and of artificial intelligence, in the context of several dossiers on which the FEMM committee is currently working.

Programme of the hearing and relevant information, [here](#)

Implementation report - [procedure](#)

[Directive 2011/36/EU](#)

Implementation of Directive 2011/36/EU - consideration of draft report

On 29 October 2020, in a joint LIBE-FEMM meeting, the Co-Rapporteurs presented their draft report on "Implementation of Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims".

The draft report takes into account the EPRS Implementation Assessment and the Commission's Third Progress Report and discusses identification, protection, assistance and support to victims including children, gender dimension of trafficking and contexts of sexual exploitation and asylum and migration. It further looks into the efficiency of criminal systems and criminalisation of use of services of victims as well as the cooperation between Member States and EU agencies.

Procedure: [2020/2029\(INI\)](#)

Responsible committees: [LIBE](#), [FEMM](#)

LIBE Rapporteur: [Juan Fernando López Aguilar \(S&D\)](#)

FEMM Rapporteur: [María Soraya Rodríguez Ramos \(Renew\)](#)

EIGE Gender Equality Index 2020 - Presentation



On 29 October, the Director of EIGE, Ms Carlien Scheele, presented to Members the findings of the Gender Equality Index 2020 and the situation of gender equality in the EU.

This year's Gender Equality Index has a special focus on digitalisation in the world of work and its consequences for gender equality. The discussion focused on new trends and areas for improvement.

The presentation was one of the many events taking place during the European Gender Equality Week.

Further information:

- link to [EIGE](#)
- [Gender Equality Week](#)

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The FEMM Committee will meet again on 9, 12, 19 (tbc) and 30 November 2020.

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

Public Hearings and exchanges of views:

- Public Hearing on "Sexual harassment in the EU institutions: follow-up of the EP resolution" (9 November 2020, tbc)
- Exchange of views on "Women in Belarus" (12 November 2020, tbc)
- Public Hearing on "Combating Gender based Violence: Cyber Violence" (30 November 2020, tbc)

Votes:

- Report on "The gender perspective in the Covid-19 crisis and post-crisis period" 2020/2121 (INI)
- Report on the "EU Strategy for Gender Equality" (2019/2169(INI))
- Report on "Closing the digital gender gap: women's participation in the digital economy"
- Opinion on "Human Rights and Democracy in the World 2019 and the European Union's policy on the matter - annual report 2019"
- Opinion on "The gender dimension in Cohesion Policy"
- Position in the form of amendments on "Shaping digital education policy" (2020/2135(INI))

Considerations of draft opinions and reports:

- "The situation of sexual and reproductive health and rights in the EU, in the frame of women's health" (Rapporteur: Predrag Fred Matić, S&D)
- "Temporary derogation from certain provisions of Directive 2002/58/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the use of technologies by number-independent interpersonal communications service providers for the processing of personal and other data for the purpose of combatting child sexual abuse online (2020/0259(COD))"

BULLETIN

EIGE



Gender Equality Index 2020: Can we wait 60 more years?

With a score of 67.9 out of 100, the EU is at least 60 years away from reaching complete gender equality, if we continue

at the current pace. EIGE's latest edition of the Gender Equality Index shows that the EU is improving by just half a point each year. Among the Member States, Sweden, Denmark and France keep their top spots. The awards for most improved go to Italy, Luxembourg and Malta. Greece, Hungary and Romania are lagging behind the rest. Improved gender equality in decision-making is the main driver of progress in the EU. The domain of power, which measures the engagement of women and men in decision-making in the areas of politics, economics, media, research and sports accounts for 65 % of all progress in the Index since 2010. Check [EIGE's website](#) or watch the [Index video](#) for the full results.

[EIGE's website](#)

Twitter [@eurogender](#)

[EIGE's newsletter](#)

POLICY DEPARTMENT

At the request of the FEMM Committee, the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs has commissioned the following studies and in-depth analyses:

[Evaluating the EU's Response to the US Global Gag Rule](#)

[The gendered impact of the Covid-19 crisis and post-crisis period](#)

[Access to Abortion Services for Women in the EU - Slovakia](#)

Further information:

Full list of Policy Department [Supporting Analyses](#)

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