

# FEMM

Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

## NEWSLETTER - January – February 2022

### WELCOMING WORDS FROM THE CHAIR



Dear Readers,

This will be my last welcoming words in this FEMM Newsletter since I have been elected Vice-President of the European

Parliament for the second half of the legislative term. It was truly an honour to be the Chair of our Committee! Working together with you to make the lives of women in Europe better was truly wonderful.

At the same time, January and February are again busy months for us. First, with the election of the new Committee Bureau but also with the start of the French Presidency of the Council. Minister Moreno is presenting her priorities and we are looking forward to working together on Women on Boards, Pay Transparency and combatting gender-based violence. Delivering on a better life for all women is again high on the agenda.

Our budgetary procedure and the work on own-initiative reports also continued at high-speed. The women in poverty report looks especially on the COVID-19 impact and the question of women as entrepreneurs focusses on a field with systemic hurdles for women and how to overcome them.

Gender mainstreaming also continues to be in our focus. On the one hand, with a designated report, and on the other hand, with the European Union's external dimension via the Gender Action Plan III.

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### NEXT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The FEMM Committee will meet again on 25 and 26 January and on 10 February 2022.

### January 2022



**Council Presidency:  
Presentation by Élisabeth  
Moreno, Minister Delegate  
for Gender Equality,  
Diversity and Equal  
Opportunities - 25.01.2022**

France took over the rotating presidency of the Council on 1 January 2022. With the motto "Recovery, Strength and a Sense of Belonging", the French Presidency has the ambition to promote a Europe fit for the digital and sustainable transitions.

On Tuesday 25 January, Mrs. Elisabeth Moreno, French Minister Delegate for Gender Equality, Diversity and Equal Opportunities will present her priorities to the Members of the FEMM Committee. The Presidency will focus on fostering female empowerment through the reinforcement of the principle of equal pay for equal work and the advancement of discussions on the proposed directive on improving gender balance on company boards.

**Further information:**

[French Presidency](#)



**Guidelines for the 2023 Budget - Section III (2021/2226(BUI)) - presentation of draft opinion - 25.01.2022 and vote in committee - 10.02.2022**

With the start of the 2023 budgetary procedure, rapporteur Monika Vana (Greens/EFA) will present her draft opinion on the BUDG draft report on 25 January.

With a tight schedule, the deadline for tabling amendments is expected to be 26 January at 12.00, and the final vote would take place in the FEMM meeting of 10 February, with the BUDG committee already voting in March.

**Further information:**

Procedure file: [2021/2226\(BUI\)](#)

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



**Reaching women's economic independence through entrepreneurship and self-employment - consideration of draft report - 25.01.2022**

On Tuesday, 25 January, the FEMM Committee will consider amendments to the draft report on "Reaching women's economic independence through entrepreneurship and self-employment".

In her draft report, the rapporteur, Pernille Weiss (EPP), highlights the importance of promoting women entrepreneurs as role models. She calls for greater women-focused promotion of the STEM subjects, digital education and financial literacy in order to combat prevailing stereotypes and to ensure that more women enter these sectors. The rapporteur addresses the issues of access to funds for women entrepreneurs and the self-employed and calls for systematic tracking and monitoring of gender-disaggregated data across the whole Union. The draft emphasises the need to remove administrative barriers to starting a business and highlights the importance of work-life balance for women entrepreneurs and the self-employed.

195 amendments were tabled to this report and the rapporteur is preparing possible compromise amendments.

**Further information:**

Procedure file: [2021/2080\(INI\)](#)

Rapporteur: [Pernille Weiss \(EPP, DA\)](#)



**Women's poverty in Europe - consideration of draft report - 25.01.2022**

On Tuesday, 25 January, the FEMM Committee will consider amendments to

the draft report on Women's poverty in Europe.

In her draft report, the Rapporteur, Lina Gálvez Muñoz (S&D) stresses that since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic the employment rate of women has fallen even more sharply than it did during the 2008 recession, leading to significant increases in women's poverty. She addresses, among various issues, the segregation of unpaid domestic care work mainly performed by women, the problem of lower remuneration of typically female-dominated work and women living in energy poverty, while emphasising that women's poverty needs to be analysed from an intersectional approach.

309 amendments were tabled to this report.

**Further information:**

Procedure file: [2021/2170\(INI\)](#)

Rapporteur: [Lina Gálvez Muñoz \(S&D\)](#)



**Gender Mainstreaming in the European Parliament - annual report 2020 - adoption of draft report - 25.01.2022**

On Tuesday, 25 January, the FEMM Committee will vote on the draft report on "Gender Mainstreaming in the European Parliament - annual report 2020".

The co-rapporteurs, Irène Tolleret (Renew) and Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield (Greens/EFA), reaffirm the Parliament's strong commitment to gender equality and endorse gender mainstreaming as one of its official policy approaches to ensure it in this draft report. Measures to ensure gender equality need to incorporate an intersectional approach. The report welcomes the increasing number of women involved in politics, even though Parliament is still far from reaching gender parity. The report examines opportunities to enter Parliament and to influence Parliament's working procedures. The co-rapporteurs look into the issue of prominence of the gender perspective in parliamentary activities, how to deliver legislation with a gender perspective.

287 amendments were tabled to this report and 39 compromise amendments were prepared.

**Further information:**

Procedure file: [2021/2039\(INI\)](#)

Co-rapporteurs:

[Irène Tolleret \(Renew, FR\)](#)

[Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield \(Greens/EFA, FR\)](#)



**2020 discharges (European Commission & EIGE) - adoption of draft opinions**

**On 25 January 2022, FEMM Members will vote on two draft opinions on the 2020 discharges: for the general budget (European Commission) and for the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), respectively.**

Regarding the EIGE's annual accounts for the financial year 2020, the rapporteur Samira Rafaela (Renew) considers that the discharge can be granted because the Institute achieved its goals especially in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic and the backlash against women's rights in several EU Member States. The vote on the draft opinion reflects the position of the rapporteur and will be simplified by 4 compromise amendments.

The draft opinion on the discharge to the Commission, Section III for the financial year 2020 addresses a series of requests to the Commission, such as to strengthen the rule of law in the Union, and thus protect fundamental rights and equality via the rule of law conditionality mechanism for access to Union funds.

38 amendments were tabled and the rapporteur proposed 6 compromise amendments.

**Further information:**

Procedure file: [2021/2106\(DEC\)](#)

Procedure file: [2021/2129\(DEC\)](#)

Rapporteur: [Samira Rafaela \(Renew, NL\)](#)



**Ensuring European transportation works for women - Public Hearing - 25 January**

On 25 January, the FEMM Committee will hold its first public hearing of 2022 on "Ensuring European transportation works for women".

The hearing aims to look into the specific needs of women in relation to different transport options, as well as of women employed in the sector, and how these are reflected in the design of the respective EU policies. The December 2021 study "Women and Transport", commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the FEMM Committee, will be presented, before FEMM hears from the invited experts: Associate Professor Hilda Rømer Christensen, Sociologisk Institut; Sabine Trier, Deputy General Secretary, Head of Policies and Gender Equality, European Transport Workers' Federation; and Professor Peter Turnbull, University of Bristol.

Members of the TRAN Committee are also invited.

**Further information:**

[Event page](#)



**European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) - working programme 2022 - 25.01.22**

On Tuesday, 25 January, EIGE's Director Carlien Scheele will present to the FEMM Members EIGE's working programme for 2022.

EIGE's focus for 2022 is on an economy that works for people. EIGE's Director Carlien Scheele will present to the FEMM Members the EIGE's working programme for 2022. The Director is invited to share with the Committee what initiatives EIGE is planning for this and other topics, what studies, reports and events are planned for this year.

European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) carries out its tasks within the Union's competences, in accordance with the objectives adopted and priority areas identified in its annual programme.

**Further information:**

[EIGE's 2021-2023 Single Programming Document](#)



**Corporate sustainability reporting - consideration of amendments - 25.01.22**

On 25 January 2022 the FEMM Committee is considering the amendments to the FEMM draft opinion on the proposal for a Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive 2021/0104(COD))

On 21 April 2021, the Commission adopted an ambitious and comprehensive package of measures to help improve the flow of money towards sustainable activities across the European Union, adopting, among others, a proposal for a Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), which would amend the existing reporting requirements of the Non-Financial Reporting Directive (NFRD). In his explanatory statement, the rapporteur, Robert Biedroń, declared that the current proposal for CSRD does not adequately address reporting requirements concerning issues such as diversity, social inclusion, gender equality or protection of minorities and vulnerable groups, and neglects the Commission's obligations and commitments in this regard.

The rapporteur presented in the draft opinion 33 amendments to the Commission proposal. 112 amendments were tabled by the Members. The rapporteur is preparing possible compromise amendments.

Procedure file: [2021/0104\(COD\)](#)

Rapporteur: [Robert Biedroń \(S&D\)](#)



**The EU Gender Action Plan (GAP) III - vote - 26.01.22**

On Wednesday, 26 January, the Committees on Development and on Women's Rights and Gender Equality will vote on the report on "The EU Gender Action Plan (GAP) III".

In her report rapporteur Chrysoula Zacharopoulou calls for more effective EU commitment and examines GAP III's proposed actions and targets regarding eliminating gender violence, ensuring access to healthcare for women, promoting economic and social equality, encouraging participation and leadership by women, involving women in peacebuilding and security, and building a green and digital society.

540 amendments were tabled and 59 compromise amendments were prepared.

**Further information:**

Procedure file: [2021/2003\(INI\)](#)

Rapporteur: [Chrysoula Zacharopoulou \(Renew. FR\)](#)



February 2022

## NEXT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Please find attached the draft agendas and meeting documents of the upcoming meetings



### Proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on Energy efficiency (recast) – draft opinion consideration

On Thursday, 10 February, FEMM Committee will consider a draft legislative opinion on the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on Energy efficiency (recast).

The opinion will be drafted by the rapporteur Alice Kuhnke (Greens/EFA). The vote is planned for April 2022.

## EIGE BULLETIN

The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) has [released a policy brief](#) examining how platform work (such as ride hailing and food delivery), and artificial intelligence are transforming the labour market. EIGE found that while these two phenomena have the potential to create new opportunities for gender equality, there is also a danger they reinforce gender stereotypes, sexism and discrimination. One positive sign includes less of a gender split in platform work, with a near equal share of women and men providing housekeeping services. EIGE will publish the full report on 31 January, as part of the launch of EIGE's 2022 focus on 'an economy.

#### Further information:

Procedure file: [2021/0203\(COD\)](#)

Rapporteur: [Alice Kuhnke \(Greens, SV\)](#)



### Countering the anti-gender movement - Public Hearing - 10.02.22

On 10 February, the FEMM Committee is organising a public hearing as a side event for the Conference on the Future of Europe entitled "Countering the anti-gender movement today to secure a gender equal Europe tomorrow".

The hearing focuses on sexual and reproductive health and rights. The participation of following speakers is confirmed: Ms Martina Avanza, Researcher-Senior lecturer at the Institute of Political Studies and the Centre for Gender Studies of the University of Lausanne, Mr Cianán Russell, Ph.D., Senior Policy Officer, ILGA Europe, Mr Neil Datta, Secretary General of the European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual and Reproductive Rights (EPF).

## LATEST BRIEFINGS

The European Parliament's **Policy Department** for Citizens' Rights Affairs published the monthly highlights

[Policy Departments' Monthly Highlights](#)

Further information:

[Relevant Research-Subject files](#)

#### Further information:

[Event page](#)

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