

FEMM

Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

NEWSLETTER - International Women's Day 2022

WELCOMING WORDS FROM THE CHAIR



Dear Readers,

First of all, as the newly elected Chair of the FEMM Committee, I would like to thank all Members and colleagues and reiterate my commitment to women's rights and gender equality. I am honored to follow up on the work of my dear friend and colleague, Evelyn Regner, who has always been a great and inspiring Chair for the Committee. The FEMM Committee holds a unique place in the European Parliament, as a space for dialogue and cooperation on a variety of difficult but important files and I will continue working on our priorities: tackling inequalities in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, combatting violence against women, and ensuring their health and economic independence.

We have all been shocked in the recent days by Russia's military invasion to Ukraine and we firmly condemn this aggression. As the Chair of the FEMM Committee, I would like to use this opportunity to call on everyone for the protection of women and children in the armed conflict in line with the humanitarian law, and to ensure safe passage for refugees. I also would like to call for respect of the principles of the UN SC resolutions on women and peace and security and prevention of gender-based violence in the armed conflicts. We will use the opportunity of the upcoming EP plenary debates to stress this.

In the upcoming weeks, the FEMM Committee will mark the International Women's Day with several activities. First, a joint hearing will be organised with the ECON Committee regarding women in economics and finance. Women are still largely under-represented within financial institutions, and this issue has not received sufficient acknowledgement and response yet.

This event will provide a space for key decision-makers to exchange on ways to increase gender diversity in the field.

On 3 March, as each year, FEMM will organise an inter-parliamentary committee meeting with high-level guests. This year's event will focus on the mental load, gender equality in teleworking and unpaid care work after the pandemic, and discuss challenges and perspectives to ensure an ambitious future for women in Europe.

This year's International Women's Day will give us the opportunity to shine a light on all the important work of the Committee. I am looking forward to seeing you in our events!

Thank you for following us via webstreaming.

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NEXT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The FEMM Committee will meet again on 28 February and on 3 March 2022.

February 2022



POSTPONED

Joint Hearing with ECON: Women in economics and finance: debate on next challenges in the EU

On 28 February 2022, in the context of the 2022 International Women's day, together with the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON), the FEMM Committee will hold a joint hearing entitled "Women in economics and finance: debate on next challenges in the EU".

Despite some progress in guaranteeing the presence of women at various levels, including top positions of economic and financial institutions, the overall situation is still highly unsatisfactory. The purpose of this high-level event is therefore to provide an opportunity to address gender equality in the fields of economic, monetary and financial affairs with key EU and international decision-makers, such as Janet YELLEN, US Secretary of the Treasury, Kristalina GEORGIEVA, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, and many others. EP President, Roberta METSOLA, will deliver a closing statement.

The event will be webstreamed. Please find more details below.

Further information:

[Event page](#)

March 2022



International Women's Day 2022: Interparliamentary Committee Meeting

On 3 March 2022, to celebrate International Women's Day 2022, the FEMM Committee in collaboration with the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments, will organise an inter-parliamentary committee meeting titled "**An ambitious future for Europe's women after COVID-19: mental load, gender equality in teleworking and unpaid care work after the pandemic**".

Parliament's President **Roberta METSOLA**, French Minister for Gender Equality, Diversity and Equal Opportunities **Élisabeth MORENO** and Commission's Vice-President for Values and Transparency **Věra JOUROVÁ** will open the event and focus on the European Union's role to build back towards a more equal future. . **Katrín JAKOBSDÓTTIR**, Prime Minister of Iceland, the most gender-equal country in the world according to the World Economic Forum, will attend the event and present a keynote speech. This event will provide a global forum for an exchange of experiences and best practices in advancing women's empowerment after the crises such as the one triggered by COVID-19.

The COVID pandemic has demonstrated the essential nature of care work overwhelmingly carried out by women, pointing out to gender inequalities linked to women's position in the context of globalised care economy but also in society in general. Despite this critical role, the care work is under-valued and mental load and the state of play of gender equality in teleworking represent new challenges to address. Gender inequalities should, therefore, be addressed at all stages of the design, adoption and implementation of the recovery plans.

Several experts are invited to share their experience and debate with the Members of the European and National Parliaments. The concluding remarks will be delivered by **Helena DALI**, Commissioner for Equality.

The event will be webstreamed. Please find more details below.

Further information:

[Event page](#)

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

On 16 March, from 16.45 to 18.45, the FEMM Committee will organise a side event for the 66th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, entitled Fighting climate change: gender perspective and feminist solutions.

On 17 March, a joint vote on the Pay transparency report and the mandate for negotiations is planned with EMPL.

Next meeting of the FEMM Committee will take place on 22 March and will include a joint hearing with LIBE on the consequences of the de facto abortion ban in Poland.

Please find attached the draft agendas of following upcoming meetings [here](#).

EIGE BULLETIN

The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) has published a [briefing on gender-responsive public procurement](#) to help EU Member States promote gender equality though the €2 trillion they spend on procurement each year. EIGE's briefing outlines how buyers and suppliers can identify the different impact of contracted activities on women and men, and shows how taking gender into account can make public procurement efficient, sustainable, and socially responsible. The benefits of gender-responsive public procurement include sustainable economic growth, the creation of inclusive jobs, and a boost to the long-term competitiveness of the economy.

EIGE will soon publish a full toolkit on gender-responsive public procurement.

Read more in the [News Alert](#).

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](#)

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