

**Question for written answer E-000561/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Christine Anderson (ID)**

Subject: Equality and the gender pay gap – Part 2

I refer to Commissioner Dalli's reply (P-003684/2019).

In so far as the principle of equal pay for equal work is already enforceable, according to the judgment of the European Court of Justice, in so far as women presume that they earn less on grounds of their sex, there is already a legal handle in place to adequately combat gender-based discrimination.

However, it is not clear whether a gender pay gap (GPG) can be the right benchmark to establish unequivocally discrimination against women in the world of work and to counteract it, since, as is clear from the above-mentioned reply, the GPG exists primarily because there are fewer women in management positions.

1. Does the Commission consider that a woman can only lead a successful and fulfilling life if she occupies a senior position?
2. Is the fact that a career criterion based solely on women in senior positions discriminates a fortiori against such women who wish to lead fulfilling lives as housewives and mothers taken into account?
3. Does the Commission intend to support more women in underrepresented occupations such as refuse collector; sewerage worker; road construction worker; plumbing, heating and air conditioning engineer; etc.?

**Supporters<sup>1</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> This question is supported by Members other than the author: Nicolaus Fest (ID), Guido Reil (ID), Bernhard Zimniok (ID)