

Question for written answer E-006994/2020

to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Rule 138

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Subject: Lack of gender balance in EEAS high-level posts

In October 2019, during his hearing at the European Parliament, VP/HR-elect Josep Borrell pledged to have 40 % of the posts at all management levels within the European External Action Service (EEAS) filled by women.

The Gender Action Plan III (GAP III), presented by the Commission on 25 November 2020, is committed to achieving the goal of an enhanced 'gender-responsive leadership' by making sure that women fill 50 % of senior and middle management positions in EEAS and external Commission services, EU Delegations and Common Security and Defence Policy missions and operations (see objective 10.1 of GAP III).

In June 2020, however, only 10 of the 30 new nominations for Heads of EU Delegations were women and in December 2020, Stefano Sannino was appointed as the EEAS's new Secretary-General, replacing Helga Schmid. As a result, men now occupy all four high-level leadership positions within the EEAS.

1. How was gender balance taken into consideration when deciding on the appointment of the Heads of the EU Delegations and the new EEAS Secretary-General?
2. What measures are currently in place to promote gender balance within the EEAS recruitment procedure?
3. Through what specific, relevant and time-bound actions is the EEAS and the Commission achieving or planning to achieve objective 10.1 of GAP III, specifically the target of having 50 % of women in management positions, and by when?

Supporters¹

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