

**Question for oral answer O-000044/2012  
to the Commission**

Rule 115

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on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

Subject: Call for gender-balanced representation on the ECB Executive Board

For many decades women's rights organisations across the world have emphasised the importance of gender balance in both the public and private spheres. It is deeply regrettable that women comprise only 18 percent of the world's political decision-making assemblies. On average women earn 32 percent less than their male counterparts. 70 percent of people who live on less than a dollar per day are women. This is a clear case of feminisation of poverty. The global economic crises, created by the world's wealthiest, have had far-reaching effects on women. The socioeconomic exclusion of women, based on ungrounded discriminatory social definitions of female and male roles, affects not only women and their human rights but also the development of sustainable economies and the protection of the natural environment.

The under-representation of women at all levels of economic decision-making is an alarming problem. Several EU Member States have adopted legislative measures to increase the representation of women in boardrooms, following the successful example set by Norway in 2005.

One striking example of gender inequality is the ECB: there is not one single woman on the Executive Board – not even on the Governing Council or the General Council.

What measures do we need to combat this systematic failure in the recruiting process, when the results are continuously so poor regarding the nomination of women candidates?

How will the Commission put pressure on the Council to work towards more gender-balanced representation in the Governing Council, the Executive Board and the General Council of the ECB?

Does the Commission have a proposal for ensuring fair gender representation in all EU institutions?

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