

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR



It is the end of the summer holidays and we are looking forward to recommence our work in the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality. In our first autumn committee meeting on 30 August, we will vote among others on the Parliament's position on the 2012 Draft Budget as modified by the Council. Our committee is very concerned about the existing funding for gender equality. We will do our utmost to ensure that sufficient funding is allocated to the European Gender Institute, the Daphne Programme which has proved to be an excellent community action programme to fight violence against women and children, including sexual exploitation and human trafficking, and the Progress programme which has contributed to fighting discrimination, social exclusion and promoting gender equality. I believe that our endorsement and support of a strong budget for social inclusion issues will have an important impact on our societies. Furthermore we will discuss and vote on a question for oral answer by the Council on the state of play on the maternity leave directive, in order to advance the proposed legislation on maternity leave. On Wednesday, 31 August there will be a joint meeting of the LIBE and FEMM committees with an exchange of views with Ms Myria Vassiliadou, EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator. We have an eventful autumn in front of us and as always we are looking forward to continue our cooperation with all stakeholders, especially the women's rights organisations who are doing an outstanding job for gender equality in Europe and all around the world! - *Eva-Britt Svensson*

30 AUGUST – MEETING AGENDA IN BRIEF

- ⌚ Women's situation in war - consideration of draft report
- ⌚ Gender Mainstreaming in the work of the European Parliament - consideration of draft report
- ⌚ The situation of fundamental rights in the European Union (2010) - consideration of draft opinion
- ⌚ EU Support for the ICC: Facing Challenges and Overcoming Difficulties - consideration of draft opinion
- ⌚ Delegation of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality to Zagreb on 15-17 June 2011 - exchange of views

THE COMMITTEE WILL VOTE ON

- ⌚ Parliament's position on the 2012 Draft Budget as modified by the Council - all sections - adoption of budget amendments
- ⌚ The European Platform against poverty and social exclusion - adoption of draft opinion
- ⌚ The 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness - adoption of amendments
- ⌚ State of play on maternity leave - adoption of question for oral answer

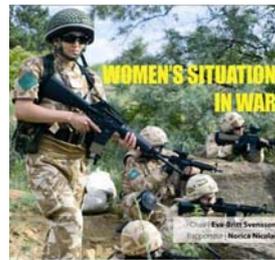
Date: Tuesday, 30 August, 9.00 - 12.30

Venue: ASP - 3G3 meeting room, Brussels

Live web streaming of the meeting [here](#).

WOMEN'S SITUATION IN WAR

Consideration of draft report

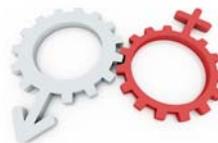


The [public hearing](#) held on this topic on 14 June served as a basis for the current [draft report](#). The rapporteur approaches the subject from the aspects of participation of women in peace and security leadership; the impact of armed conflict on women and concludes the work by making recommendations in relation to the above issues.

Rapporteur: Norica Nicolai (ALDE)

GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN THE WORK OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Consideration of draft report



FEMM committee is the body within the European Parliament which is responsible for the implementation and further development of gender mainstreaming in all policy sectors, and as such it commits itself to regularly adopting and implementing a policy plan for gender mainstreaming (GM) in the Parliament. The overall objective of GM is to promote equality between women and men through the incorporation of the gender perspective in all policies and activities. The [draft report](#) suggests detailed priorities in order to achieve a more consistent and effective implementation of gender mainstreaming in the work of the Parliament.

Rapporteur: Eva-Britt Svensson (GUE/NGL)

Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality is responsible for:

- Definition, promotion and protection of women's rights in the Union and related Community measures;
- The promotion of women's rights in third countries;
- Equal opportunities policy, including equality between men and women with regard to labour market opportunities and treatment at work;
- The removal of all forms of discrimination based on sex;
- The implementation and further development of gender mainstreaming in all policy sectors;
- The follow-up and implementation of international agreements and conventions involving the rights of women;
- Information policy on women.

THE SITUATION OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS IN THE EU (2010)

Consideration of draft opinion

The [LIBE committee](#) draws up its annual own-initiative report on the situation of fundamental rights in the EU. The entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon created a new situation in the EU in the field of human rights by making the [Charter of Fundamental Rights](#) legally binding, thus transforming basic values into concrete rights. The FEMM committee decided to contribute to this report with its [draft opinion](#).

Draftsperson: **Nicole Sinclair** (NI)

EU SUPPORT FOR THE ICC: FACING CHALLENGES AND OVERCOMING DIFFICULTIES

Consideration of draft opinion

The [Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court](#) classifies crimes committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population, in particular women and children, among the most serious crimes. The [draft opinion](#) stresses the influence of armed conflicts on the increase of sexual crimes against women, and condemns the use of violence and aggression against women during conflicts. It also emphasizes the importance of co-operation between the EU, the UN and the ICC to prevent such crimes and to end impunity for the perpetrators of crimes against women and children.

Draftsperson: **Tadeusz Cymański** (ECR)

DELEGATION TO ZAGREB ON 15-17 JUNE 2011

Exchange of views



A committee delegation visited Zagreb in June with the aim to learn about the gender equality legislation and women's rights policy, as well as the overall progress achieved by Croatia in view of its prospective accession to the EU.

PARLIAMENT'S POSITION ON THE 2012 DRAFT BUDGET AS MODIFIED BY THE COUNCIL

Adoption of budgetary amendments



At its previous meeting FEMM committee discussed the figures and remarks to next year's budget proposed by the draftsperson. Now altogether 22 [budgetary amendments](#) will be put to the vote and the adopted amendments will be sent to the [Committee on Budgets](#).

Draftsperson: **Barbara Matera** (EPP)

THE EUROPEAN PLATFORM AGAINST POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION

Adoption of draft opinion

The [European Platform against poverty and social exclusion](#) is one of the flagship initiatives that were presented in the Commission Communication on the EU 2020 Strategy. The committee held an exchange of views on its [draft opinion](#) at the previous meeting and now Members will vote on the text and the 51 [amendments](#).

Draftsperson: **Anna Záborská** (EPP)

THE 4TH HIGH LEVEL FORUM ON AID EFFECTIVENESS

Adoption of amendments

The [Committee on Development](#) decided to draw up an own-initiative report to provide input from the European Parliament on the issues raised in the Commission Communication on "Preparation of the position for the 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness" to define its positions on the policy orientations proposed by the Commission. In order to ensure that the gender aspect is taken into account, FEMM will now adopt [gender mainstreaming amendments](#) which will be tabled directly to the DEVE report on behalf of the committee.

STATE OF PLAY ON MATERNITY LEAVE

Adoption of question for oral answer

Since the European Parliament adopted its [position](#) in first reading on 20 October 2010 on the revision of



the "Maternity leave directive", the Council has not reached a formal position on this proposal. The committee decided to adopt a [question for oral answer](#) to the Council, in

order to enquire about the state of play on the revision of the directive.

Rapporteur: **Edite Estrela** (S&D)

TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Joint meeting of the LIBE and FEMM committees on Wednesday 31 August, 17.45 - 18.30

In the frame of a joint meeting of the LIBE and FEMM committees, Members of the two committees will have the opportunity to exchange views on the issue of human trafficking with Ms [Myria Vassiliadou](#), who has recently been appointed as EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator. Her role is to improve coordination and coherence between EU institutions, EU agencies, Member States, third countries and international actors. The Coordinator also helps elaborating existing and new EU policies relevant to the fight against trafficking and provide overall strategic policy orientation for the EU's external policy in this field.

PLENARY FOLLOW-UP OF FEMM REPORTS



- Women and business leadership - adoption of the [EP resolution](#) - 06.07.2011

Details of the next meeting

Thursday, 15 Sept., 8.30 - 10.30 (Strasbourg)

Tuesday, 11 October, 9.00 - 12.30

and 15.00 - 18.30

For more information, please contact

FEMM secretariat - tel: + 32 (0) 2 28 43773 - e-mail: femm-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu

FEMM website: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/homeCom.do?language=EN&body=FEMM>

Link to committee meeting documents: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2009_2014/organes/femm/femm_7leg_meetinglist.htm