

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR



Even if we leave the celebrations of the International Women's Day behind us, the messages delivered by the colleagues remain highly important: some of the most important conditions to reach gender equality are to have an increasing number of women in politics and measures are needed to ensure equal representation of women in all sectors of the society. The FEMM Committee keeps the work for gender equality alive 365 days a year and we are looking forward to our next meeting. The meeting starts with an exchange of views with Jutta Haug, Chairwoman of the Special Committee on Policy Challenges and Budgetary Resources. We will continue with the consideration of FEMM draft reports and opinions. The second day starts with votes on the amendments on the Midterm review of the 7th Framework Programme for Research, Increasing the impact of EU development policy and the draft report on Priorities and outline of a new EU policy framework to fight violence against women. We are also delighted to host Commissioner Reding in the context of the structured dialogue on the Legislative and Work Programme 2011-2012. - *Eva-Britt Svensson*

14 - 15 MARCH – MEETING AGENDA IN BRIEF

- ⌚ Jutta Haug, Chairwoman of the Special Committee on Policy Challenges and Budgetary Resources for a Sustainable European Union after 2013 - exchange of views
- ⌚ Demographic change and its consequences for the future Cohesion policy of the EU - consideration of draft opinion
- ⌚ The future for social services of general interest - consideration of draft opinion
- ⌚ The EC 5th Cohesion Report and the Strategy for the post-2013 Cohesion Policy - consideration of draft opinion
- ⌚ Virginija Langbakk, Director of the European Institute for Gender Equality - exchange of views
- ⌚ Francesca Balzani, rapporteur for the 2012 budget in the Committee on Budgets - exchange of views
- ⌚ Women entrepreneurship in small and medium-sized enterprises - consideration of draft report
- ⌚ Viviane Reding, Vice-President of the European Commission - exchange of views

- ⌚ Women and business leadership - consideration of draft report

THE COMMITTEE WILL VOTE ON

- ⌚ Midterm review of the 7th Framework Programme for research - adoption of amendments
- ⌚ Increasing the Impact of EU Development Policy - adoption of amendments
- ⌚ Priorities and outline of a new EU policy framework to fight violence against women - adoption of draft report

Date: Monday, 14 March, 15.00 - 18.30

Tuesday, 15 March, 9.00 - 12.30

Venue: JAN - 4Q1 meeting room, Brussels

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

WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES

Consideration of draft report



The [draft report](#) recognises the value of women entrepreneurs in SMEs, explores the different problems women may face in achieving their goals in different Member States, highlights

female entrepreneurs' contribution to both the community and the economy of the EU. The Rapporteur also emphasises that ultimately women have a right to choose the role they play both within their home and within the community they live in. The aim is to make this choice a reality through practical guidelines and best practice solutions which the Member States may employ.

Rapporteur: Marina Yannakoudakis (ECR)

WOMEN AND BUSINESS LEADERSHIP

Consideration of draft report



The subject of 'women and business leadership' encompasses all the areas of difficulty associated with both women's circumstances and the world of work – including access to the labour market, parity and fairness, the balance between work and family life, individual ambition and cultural stereotyping – while, on the other, it raises a

more general issue about how human resources contribute to economic growth and competitiveness. >>>

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 [draft report](#) focuses on these different elements of this issue.

Rapporteur: **Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou** (EPP)

VIVIANE REDING, VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Exchange of views

In the context of the structured dialogue on the 2011-2012 legislative and work programme of the European Commission, Members will have the opportunity to exchange views with Vice-President Reding on gender equality issues.

PRIORITIES AND OUTLINE OF A NEW EU POLICY FRAMEWORK TO FIGHT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Adoption of draft report

The committee held a debate on this strategic [report](#), which aims to collect the necessary measures to guarantee a decent, safe life for women in the European Union. The [186 amendments](#) tabled to the text, reflect the importance of the topic. The committee will now vote on this file.

Rapporteur: **Eva-Britt Svensson** (GUE/NGL)

JUTTA HAUG, CHAIRWOMAN OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON POLICY CHALLENGES AND BUDGETARY RESOURCES FOR A SUSTAINABLE EUROPEAN UNION AFTER 2013

Exchange of views

The committee will discuss with the [SURE committee](#) Chairwoman the gender aspects of the EU post-2013 policy challenges and budgetary resources.

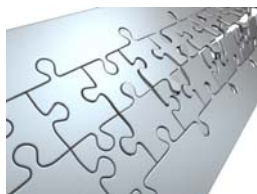
DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE AND ITS CONSEQUENCES FOR THE FUTURE COHESION POLICY OF THE EU

Consideration of draft opinion

The [draft opinion](#) is an opportunity to present the impact of the demographic change from a gender perspective and to address its consequences on the regional policies and strategies needed in order to facilitate the adaptation to the new demands of an ageing society, with a special focus on the situation of women.

Draftsperson: **Anna Záborská** (EPP)

THE EC 5TH COHESION REPORT AND THE STRATEGY FOR THE POST-2013 COHESION POLICY



Consideration of draft opinion

The [draft opinion](#) underlines the gender dimension of the future of the cohesion policy and the financial resources for the key investments linked to the renewed Agenda for growth and jobs. It also emphasises the actions proposed to boost employment, strengthen social cohesion and reduce the risk of poverty from a gender perspective.

Draftsperson: **Tadeusz Cymański** (ECR)

THE FUTURE FOR SOCIAL SERVICES OF GENERAL INTEREST

Consideration of draft opinion

Social services of general interest ensure social equilibrium of the society and are based on the principle of solidarity. Those services are strongly dependent on public financing which is independent from wealth, income or gender. The [draft opinion](#) calls on the Member States to establish modern pro-active welfare strategies to ensure effectiveness and efficiency of social spending. It also emphasizes the positive effect of accessible, affordable, high-quality and different forms of childcare provision as an essential step towards equal opportunities in employment between women and men.

Draftsperson: **Siiri Oviir** (ALDE)

MIDTERM REVIEW OF THE 7TH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH

Adoption of amendments

The committee will adopt amendments pointing on the gender aspect of the issue. These amendments will be then tabled to the draft [initiative report](#) in the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy which is based on the "Interim evaluation of the seventh Framework Programme".

INCREASING THE IMPACT OF EU DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Adoption of amendments

Amendments focusing on the gender elements will be adopted in FEMM. They will then be tabled to the [draft report](#) in the Development Committee, which is based on the Commission's Green Paper on "EU development policy in support of inclusive growth and sustainable development - Increasing the impact of EU development policy".

VIRGINIJA LANGBAKK, DIRECTOR OF THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTE FOR GENDER EQUALITY



Exchange of views

FEMM Members will have a chance to get an insight from first-hand about the ongoing and the future work of the [Gender Institute](#).

FRANCESCA BALZANI, RAPPORTEUR FOR THE 2012 BUDGET

Exchange of views

The Rapporteur for the 2012 budget visits the FEMM committee with the aim to collect background information concerning the FEMM opinion on the 2012 Draft Budget and to take stock of the budgetary priorities of the committee.

Details of the next meeting

**Wednesday, 20 April, 9.00 - 12.30
and 15.00 - 18.30**

For more information, please contact

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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