

NEWSLETTER

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY - September II 2009 -

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

It is with great pleasure that I start working as Chair of the FEMM committee. I am very much looking forward to working with you all. I would like to say a few words about my ambitions for the future.



I would like to strengthen the profile of the committee, both externally and internally in relation to other parts of the European Parliament.

I would like to open up the committee to the outside and make it easier to take interest in our work. One important part of this is to increase the contacts with non-governmental organisations that work for equality and women's rights.

I would also like to strengthen the gender mainstreaming work in the Parliament through increased cooperation with the Members responsible for gender mainstreaming in the other committees.

Kind regards,

Eva-Britt Svensson

SEPTEMBER 29-30 MEETING AGENDA IN BRIEF

- ⌚ Designation of EP candidates to the Experts' Forum of the European Institute for Gender Equality
- ⌚ Elimination of violence against women - oral question and motion for a resolution
- ⌚ Impact of the financial crisis on gender equality
- ⌚ Gender equality in balancing work and family rights and responsibilities - oral question and motion for a resolution
- ⌚ Area of freedom, security and justice serving the citizen - exchange of views with Swedish Presidency and consideration of draft opinion
- ⌚ Presentation of the work of the Policy Department Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs

Details of the meeting:

Tuesday 29 September, 15.00-18.30

Wednesday 30 September, 9.00-12.30

Meeting room: ASP 3G2

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

HEARING OF EXPERTS

Designation of the EP candidates to the Experts' Forum of the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)

In line with [Article 11 of the Regulation No 1922/2006](#) of 20 December 2006, the European Parliament is asked to designate two members who represent relevant organisations specialised in gender equality issues to take part in the Experts' Forum of the EIGE.

During the committee meeting, six candidates will present their areas of competence and experience in front of the committee Members. Two experts and two alternate experts will then be designated by the committee.

ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Adoption of oral question and consideration of motion for a resolution

FEMM Committee will adopt an oral question in connection with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, which is celebrated every year on 25 November (following a [UN General Assembly resolution of 1999](#)).

After the adoption of the oral question, the committee will discuss a draft motion for resolution on the same subject.

IMPACT OF THE FINANCIAL CRISIS ON GENDER EQUALITY

Exchange of views with Ms Osnat Lubrani, Director of the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) Brussels Office



The FEMM Members will discuss the impact of the financial crisis on gender equality. Ms Osnat Lubrani, Director of UNIFEM Brussels Office, will introduce the issue.

The financial crisis is expected to have serious impacts on the real economy and particularly on the lives of people already in poverty. Historically, economic recessions have placed a high burden on women who are more likely to be in vulnerable jobs than men, to be underemployed or without a job, to lack social protection, and to have limited access to and control over economic and financial resources. Policy responses to the financial crisis must then take gender equality perspectives into careful consideration.

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.

GENDER EQUALITY IN BALANCING WORK AND FAMILY RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Adoption of oral question and consideration of motion for a resolution

The committee will adopt an oral question to the Commission and Council in connection with the "reconciliation package" proposed by the Commission on 3 October 2008. In particular, FEMM Committee is interested to know if the Commission intends to definitely abandon the EU legislative proposals on paternity leave, adoption leave and filial leave from its future Work Programme.

After the adoption of the oral question, the committee will discuss a draft motion for resolution on the same subject.

AREA OF FREEDOM, SECURITY AND JUSTICE SERVING THE CITIZEN

Presentation by Mr Magnus Graner, State Secretary, Ministry of Justice and Ms Minna Ljunggren State Secretary, Migration and Asylum Policy, both from Swedish Presidency, followed by a consideration of draft opinion

The Stockholm programme sets out the objectives of the European Union for the coming five years in the area of Justice and Home affairs. It is a priority of the Swedish Presidency. Ms Jimenez-Becerril Barrio has prepared the FEMM opinion. The Committee will discuss the draft opinion then a deadline for amendments will be set and the opinion will be adopted at the next meeting of the Committee.

The FEMM opinion will focus on women's rights and gender equality in the context of freedom, security and justice policies.

Draftsperson: **Teresa Jimenez-Becerril Barrio** (EPP)

POLICY DEPARTMENT - CITIZENS' RIGHTS AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Presentation of the work followed by an exchange of views

The policy departments are research units ("think-tanks") within the European Parliament with a three-fold role. They provide timely specialised advice to committees and inter-parliamentary delegations; assist in carrying out research addressing the needs of parliamentary bodies; and manage the allocated budgets for external expertise according to the decisions taken by committees.

The Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs, covering the policy area of the FEMM committee, will present its work to the Members of the committee.

THE COMMITTEE WILL VOTE ON:

- Oral question on **Elimination of violence against women**
- Oral question on **Gender equality in balancing work and family rights and responsibilities**

Details of the next meeting

Monday 19 October 2009 (19.00-20.30 tbc)

Wednesday 4 November 2009 (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