

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Responding to the demands put forward during International Women's Day 2010



Few days after 8 March, I am very happy to see so many actions and such a broad and creative mobilisation throughout Europe. Women and men clearly called on policymakers at all levels to step up their political commitment and action for women's rights. And this is what we are aiming to do in the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality! In our upcoming Committee meeting we will discuss a draft report assessing the current EU Roadmap on gender equality and making future recommendations, as well as discuss a draft report addressing the gender aspects of the financial and economic crisis - just to give a few examples of the immediate work ahead. The future of EU policies on gender equality is also being discussed by the new European Commission and the governments at this stage. The Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality wants to make sure that we fully partake in all these processes - deepening the dialogue on the Women's Charter and contributing to the definition of the new [EU 2020 Strategy](#). In this way we will be doing all we can to respond to at least some of the expectations put forward during the diverse actions on International Women's Day 2010.

Eva-Britt Svensson

15 MARCH - MEETING AGENDA IN BRIEF

- ⌚ Equal treatment between men and women engaged in an activity in a self-employed capacity - announcement of timetable
- ⌚ Committee Delegation to New York (USA) on 1-3 March 2010 - exchange of views
- ⌚ Key competences for a changing world: implementation of the education and training 2010 work programme - adoption of amendments
- ⌚ Gender aspects of the economic downturn and financial crisis - consideration of draft report
- ⌚ Assessment of the results of the 2006-2010 Roadmap for Equality and forward looking recommendations - consideration of draft report

Date: Monday, 15 February, 15.00-18.30

Venue: JAN 6Q2 Meeting room

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

GENDER ASPECTS OF THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN AND FINANCIAL CRISIS

Consideration of draft report



FEMM committee decided to draft an own-initiative report to examine the economic crisis from a gender aspect. The draft report points out that gender equality should be integrated in any policy response to the crisis, including the [employment](#) and macro-economic guidelines and the EU 2020 Strategy. The increase in job losses, with more women on the labour market could result in a bigger direct and indirect impact on women themselves, as well as family households, compared to previous recessions. Women's employment is especially affected in the fields of retailing, service and tourism, and the public sector, such as education, health and social services. Furthermore female employment in part-time and precarious jobs is disproportionately high; therefore an economic downturn carries additional risk for them.

Rapporteur: **Raül Romeva i Rueda** (Greens/EFA)

ASSESSMENT OF THE RESULTS OF THE 2006-2010 ROADMAP FOR EQUALITY BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN AND FORWARD LOOKING RECOMMENDATIONS

Consideration of draft report



The draft report assessing the results of the Roadmap and giving recommendations for the future takes into consideration the results of the successful public hearing organised on the new EU gender strategy at the end of January. According to the Rapporteur, the new gender strategy should be based on the priorities of the Beijing Platform for Action.

The document applies a dual approach in its proposals for a new strategy. First it recommends developments in the institutional cooperation such as holding regular meetings between the Council, the Commission and the Parliament on the progress in gender equality, as well as other regular meetings on specific issues with the participation of women's organisations, national parliaments in addition to the representatives of the European institutions. >>

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.

>> In the second part, it lists the objectives broken down to different themes, such as women's economic situation, reconciliation, gender violence and gender aspect of external development policies.

Rapporteur: **Ilda Figueiredo** (GUE/NGL)

KEY COMPETENCES FOR A CHANGING WORLD: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING 2010 WORK PROGRAMME

Adoption of amendments



The FEMM Committee was interested in the subject of the draft report of the Committee on Culture on the key competences for a changing world: implementation of the education and

training 2010 work-programme taking into account the gender dimension. The programme aims primarily at supporting the improvement of national education and training systems through the development of complementary EU-level tools, mutual learning and the exchange of good practice via the open method of coordination. Neither the Commission Communication of 25 November 2009 on the implementation of the respective programme, nor the Council conclusions of 12 May 2009 on a strategic framework for education and training ("ET 2020") make specific reference to the gender dimension. However gender equality is listed among others as a specific objective of the Lifelong Learning Action Programme adopted in 2006, and considering that it is essential to integrate a gender perspective in any strategy related to education and training in order to help to address future skills shortages, FEMM committee decided to draft and table amendments to the respective draft report.

COMMITTEE DELEGATION TO NEW YORK (USA) ON 1-3 MARCH 2010

Exchange of views



A delegation of FEMM Members attended the [54th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women \(CSW\)](#) between 1-3 March 2010. The main objective of the meeting was to review the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action for Gender Equality, adopted in Beijing in 1995.

During the UN conference, the FEMM delegation attended the high-level meetings of the CSW, a meeting organised by the Inter-Parliamentary Union gath-

ering together parliamentarians from all over the world and a number of side-events organised by women NGOs, EU Member States and third countries. It also met with senior UN officials and representatives from the World Bank.

THE COMMITTEE WILL VOTE ON:

- Amendments to **Key competences for a changing world: implementation of the education and training 2010 work programme**

Celebration of the International Women's Day



The celebration of the International Women's Day with the participation of National Parliaments on the theme of violence against women will take place on Tuesday, 16 March 2010 from 9.00 to 12.30 in the Hemicycle of the European Parliament.

The event will be opened by President Jerzy Buzek, which will be followed by two panels of interventions, each closed by a debate involving Members of the European and National Parliaments.

The speakers of the first panel will be Ms Bibiana Aído Almagro, Minister for Equality, Spain and Ms Viviane Reding, Vice-President responsible for Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship, European Commission.

The speakers of the second panel will be Ms Inés Alberdi, Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), Mr Martin Karbovski, a journalist from Bulgaria and Mr Morten Kjærum, Director of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency.

For registrations, please click [here](#).

Details of the next meeting

Wednesday, 7 April, 2010 (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