

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY

COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT

Invitation to the Public Hearing "Women and Micro-credit Day"
11 October 2005, 9.30-17.30, Brussels

In the light of the International year of Micro-credit 2005 as announced by the United Nations, the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality together with the Committee on Development would like to kindly invite you to the Public Hearing entitled "Women and Micro-credit Day".

This public audience, organised with the support of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, will take place in the European Parliament, room PHS 4B001, rue Wiertz, Brussels.

The hearing is aimed at increasing the awareness of microfinance services as an effective tool to empower women from the Mediterranean countries, sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and Asia. It also calls on the European Commission to engage more actively in this area.

Micro-credit has been changing people's lives and revitalizing communities since the beginning of trade. Identified as an effective instrument to fight poverty among women, micro-credit has proven to be effective in helping women to increase the quality of their and their families' lives and, thus, contributing to the long-run sustainable growth of the communities.

Please find enclosed the draft programme and the poster of the hearing.

In view of the limited space in the meeting room, may we ask you to inform the Secretariat as soon as possible (Joao LEITE jleite@europarl.eu.int or Gintare GUZEVICIUTE gguzeviciute@europarl.eu.int) about your participation, in order for us to arrange with the security services your admission into the building. Should you be willing to participate, please send us by e-mail your name, date of birth and the organization you represent.

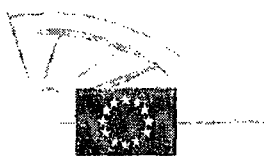
We look forward to your participation.

Dr Anna Záborská
Chairperson
Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

Ms Luisa Morgantini
Chairperson
Committee on Development

Annexes: Draft programme
 Poster

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Women and Micro-credit day
Mardi 11 Octobre 2005, Brussels
European parliament - Room PHS 4B001

Morning session: 9.30 - 12.30
Women and micro credit in some Mediterranean countries

A. Accueil :

Anna Záborská Présidente de la commission des droits de la femme et de l'égalité des genres
Jamila Madeira Vice Présidente de la commission économique de l'Assemblée Parlementaire Euro-Méditerranéenne
Baronne Emma Nicholson, Vice Présidente commission des affaires étrangères

B. "Femme et Microcrédit dans les régions du Maghreb, Mashrek et du Moyen Orient":

Introduction de la table ronde par les ONGs SIFRA et ETIMOS

Intervention des représentants de la société civile:

1. Maroc : Rida Lamrini Président de la Fédération marocaine des Institutions de Micro-crédit.
2. Jordanie : Khaled Al Gazawi Executive Director de Jordan Microcredit Company
3. Palestine Ashraf AL ZEIN - Operational Credit Manager de l'ACAD, "Arab Center for Agricultural development"
4. Liban : Youssef Shawaz, Directeur exécutif de Al Majmoua
5. Egypte, Wafaa Khalil William, CEOSS, Head Officer Micro-Finance

C. Débat avec les représentants du Conseil et de la Commission Européenne
Commissaire FERRERO WALDNER, Membre de la Commission, en charge de la région euro-méditerranéenne.

D. Conclusion de la matinée:

Britta THOMSEN, Vice Présidente de la commission Industrie, Recherche et Energie du parlement européen

Afternoon session: 14.30 - 17.30
Women and micro credit in some developing countries

A. Introduction: Luisa Morgantini, Présidente commission du Développement

B. Intervention des représentants de la société civile:

1. Perspective Générale et Amérique Latine: CGAP (Consultative Group to Assist the Poor): Mrs Brigit Helms
2. Afghanistan: Mrs Nair Nidar and Simona Lanzoni (Pangea)
3. Afrique : CIDR: Mme Renée Chao Beroff
4. Mr Andreas Schwarz : DG Développement

C. Débat avec les représentants de la Commission Européenne:

Commissaire Louis Michel, membre de la Commission, Commission du Développement

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Luisa Morgantini

Anna Záborská

have the pleasure to invite you at the

Women and Micro-Credit Day

organised by

Development Committee

Women's Rights and Gender Equality Committee

with the support of

Foreign Affairs Committee

Industry, Research and Energy Committee

Tuesday, 11 October 2005

Morning session 9:00-12:30

Afternoon session 14:30-17:30

Room: PHS 4B001 - Brussels

