

NEWSLETTER

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY - September 2008 -

September's meeting agenda in brief...

- ✓ "Mini-hearing" on "The non-discrimination based on gender and solidarity between generations";
- ✓ Consideration of draft report on "Situation of women in the Balkans";
- ✓ Consideration of draft opinions on "Development perspectives on peace-building and nation building in post-conflict situations", "Combating the sexual exploitation of children and child pornography";
- ✓ Exchange of views on "Transposition and application of Directive 2002/73/EC on the implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women as regards access to employment, vocational training and promotion, and working conditions";
- ✓ Study on Electoral Gender Quota Systems and Their Implementation in Europe;
- ✓ African week: exchange of views with women from Ambassadors from African States in Brussels.

Details of the meeting:

Monday, 8 September 2008; 15:00 - 17:30
Tuesday, 9 September 2008; 9:00 - 12.30

DRAFT REPORT

Situation of women in the Balkans (Rapporteur: [ZITA GURMAI \(PSE\)](#))

The draft report's main focus is on the situation of women in decision making and in labour market in the Western Balkans. The rapporteur identifies the main outstanding issues and suggests necessary steps to be taken in order to improve the political participation of women, as well as their participation in decision making in public and private enterprises, and also actions in order to improve women's access to the labour market and promotion of female entrepreneurs. In the framework of the preparation of the draft report, the committee has requested the Policy department C "Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs" to organise a workshop on the topic in October 2008.

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.

Adoption in FEMM: November 2008
Plenary: December 2008 (tbc)

"MINI HEARING"

The non-discrimination based on gender and solidarity between generations (Rapporteur: [ANNA ZABORSKA \(EPP-ED\)](#))

FEMM committee will organise a mini-hearing on "The non-discrimination based on sex and intergenerational solidarity". This will serve as a basis for Ms Záborská's draft report on the topic. Discussions will mainly focus on direct and indirect discrimination towards people, particularly women, who are responsible for taking care dependent people. A better understanding of the relation between employment (paid work) and family obligation (unpaid work) is, in fact, essential for the economic independence of women and equality between women and men. This is also needed in order to evaluate adaptation processes in Europe and formulate new policy responses to specific needs.

Participants for the mini-hearing will include some experts and representatives of both the Commission and French Presidency.

Adoption in FEMM: 1-2 December 2008
Plenary: January 2009 (tbc)

WORKING DOCUMENT

Transposition and application of Directive 2002/73/EC (Rapporteur: [TERESA RIERA MADURELL \(PSE\)](#))

On 4 June 2008, in the framework of the preparation of an own-initiative report on the transposition of the Directive 2002/73/EC, the rapporteur sent letters to the Parliamentary Committees for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men in the Member States and to the national Equality Bodies asking for the information related to the transposition and implementation of the above mentioned Directive. This

working document encompasses the summary of the answers received that form the basis for the questions to be raised to the European Commission. The main questions to be discussed refer to the analysis of the Member States' replies to the letters of formal notice; state of play of the infringement proceedings; the efficiency of the national equality bodies; awareness-raising actions; promotion of social dialogue and dialogue with NGOs, etc.

Adoption in FEMM: 1-2 December 2008

Adoption in Plenary: January 2009 (tbc)

DRAFT OPINIONS

Combating the sexual exploitation of children and child pornography (Draftsperson: **LISSY GROENER (PSE)**)

The draft opinions calls on EUROPOL to set up a specific unit dealing with child pornography and child prostitution composed of experts trained in gender specific issues. It also emphasizes the importance of the dialogue with stakeholders in order to close down illegal websites and calls on the on the Commission to intensify talks with National Authorities and stakeholders, in order to build-up an integrated strategy aiming at closing down such websites. The draftsperson also calls on the Member States to give appropriate support to the victims and their family.

Adoption in FEMM: 7 October 2008

Adoption in LIBE: tbc

Development perspectives on peace-building and nation building in post-conflict situations (Draftsperson: **LUISA MORGANTINI (GUE/NGL)**)

The role of women in peace-building and nation-building in post-conflict situations has attracted the attention of FEMM committee on several occasions (in particular a specific own-initiative report on the subject was adopted in Plenary on 3 May 2006). The debate foreseen in FEMM should focus on the main aspects already developed in other occasions, such as the integration of a gender perspective at all stages (peace research, conflict prevention and resolution, peacekeeping operations, post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction as well as throughout all financial instruments, taking into account the possibility of non permanent quotas), the end of impunity for sexual violence crimes and the respect of the gender dimension when dealing with refugees.

Adoption in FEMM: 7 October 2008

Adoption in DEVE: tbc

Exchange of views with women Ambassadors from African States in Brussels

In relation to the African week organized by the European Parliament from 8 to 12 September, FEMM committee will receive a number of African women Ambassadors in order

to have an exchange of views on the situation of women in Africa. The exchange of views is scheduled for 9 October.

THE COMMITTEE WILL VOTE ON:

Draft opinion on **2009 budget: Section III, Commission** (Draftsperson: **LIDIA JOANNA GERINGER DE OEDENBERG (PSE)**)

Draft opinion on **Protecting children using the Internet and other communication technologies** (Draftsperson: **MARIE PANAYOTOPOULOS (EPP-ED)**)

Draft opinion on **European Job Mobility Action Plan 2007-2010** (Draftsperson: **MARUSYA IVANOVA LYUBCHEVA (PSE)**)

Draft opinion on **Future of social security systems and pensions: their financing and the trend towards individualisation** (Draftsperson: **ASTRID LULLING (EPP-ED)**)

PRESENTATION OF A STUDY

Electoral Gender Quota Systems and Their Implementation in Europe (conducted by WIP, Women in Politics Research Centre, Department of Political Science, Stockholm University in cooperation with International IDEA)

Although controversial, electoral gender quotas are in use in almost half of the countries in the world today. Until recently, Europe has not been in the forefront of this new development. However, this report shows that five European Union (EU)/European Economic Area (EEA) countries have introduced gender quotas by law – most recently Spain, Portugal and Slovenia – and that in more than half of the EU/EEA countries some of the political parties have adopted voluntary party quotas for their electoral lists. The arguments for and against quotas are studied, and the implementation and effect of gender quotas are scrutinized. The main conclusion is that, in order to be effective, a quota system must be compatible with the electoral system in place and that quota rules – for example, of 30 or 40 per cent women on electoral lists – must be supplemented with rules concerning rank order as well as – in the case of legislated quotas – effective sanctions.

Details of the next meeting:

Tuesday, 7 October 2008; 11:00 - 12:45

Tuesday, 7 October 2008; 15:00 - 18.30

For more information, please contact

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FEMM website: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/femm_home_en.htm

Link to committee meeting documents:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2004_2009/organes/femm/femm_meetinglist.htm