

# NEWSLETTER

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

### October's meetings agendas in brief...

#### 7 OCTOBER

- ✓ Consideration of draft report on "Transposition and application of Directive 2002/73/EC";
- ✓ "Mini-hearing" on "Fight against Female genital mutilations practised in the EU";
- ✓ Consideration of working document on "The non-discrimination based on gender and solidarity between generations";
- ✓ Consideration of draft opinions on "The social situation of the Roma and their improved access to the labour market in the EU", "Delivering lifelong learning for knowledge, creativity and innovation: implementation of the education and training 2010 work programme", "The implementation of the Structural Funds Regulation 2007 - 2013: the results of the negotiations on the national cohesion strategies and the operational programmes"

#### 13 OCTOBER

- ✓ Public hearing on Combat of violence against women
- ✓ Workshop on the situation of women in the Balkans

#### Details of the meetings:

**Tuesday, 7 October 2008**  
11:00 - 12:30 / 15:00 - 18:30

**Monday, 13 October**  
15:00-18:30

#### 7 OCTOBER

#### DRAFT REPORT

**Transposition and application of Directive 2002/73/EC**  
(Rapporteur: **Teresa RIERA MADURELL (PSE)**)

The Rapporteur in her draft report states that the Directive, adopted by the Parliament and Council in 2002, is an important milestone in the process towards achieving equality between women and men and tackling discrimination on the basis of sex in the whole society. In accordance with the principles of democracy and the rule of law, enshrined in the Treaty, it is appropriate that the legislator monitors the im-

plementation of legislation it has adopted. The Rapporteur appreciates the collaboration she has had with National Parliament and Equality bodies in this monitoring, especially as few information is available from the Commission.

The Rapporteur calls on the Commission to carefully monitor the transposition and compliance with the legislation. She calls upon Member States to ensure that all provisions contained in this important Directive are fully, correctly and effectively transposed and adequately implemented, and it points to deficiencies in these respects.

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#### WORKING DOCUMENT

**- The non-discrimination based on gender and solidarity between generations** (Rapporteur: **Anna ZÁBORSKÁ (PPE-DE)**)

Following the mini-hearing on non-discrimination based on gender and solidarity between generations on 8 September 2008, Ms Záborská presents a working document which will serve as a basis for her draft Report on the topic. The document mainly focuses on direct and indirect discrimination towards women and men who are responsible for taking care of dependent people. A better understanding of the relation between employment (paid work) and family obligations (unpaid work) is, in fact, essential for the economic independence of women and equality between women and men.

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

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#### "MINI HEARING"

**Fight against Female genital mutilations practised in the EU** (Rapporteur: **Cristiana MUSCARDINI (UEN)**)

FEMM committee will organise a mini-hearing on the fight against female genital mutilation (FGM) practiced in the EU. This will serve as a basis for Ms Muscardini's draft report on the topic. Discussions will mainly focus on the progresses made since the EP's first resolution on FGM (Resolution A5-285/2001). It will also evaluate the gaps and challenges which still remain to put an end these harmful traditional practices in the EU. Participants for the mini-hearing will include experts and representatives of the Commission.

Adoption in FEMM: 15-16 December 2008 (tbc)  
Plenary: January 2009 (tbc)

**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.*

## DRAFT OPINIONS

### **The social situation of the Roma and their improved access to the labour market in the EU** (Draftsperson: **Livia JÁRÓKA (PPE-DE)**)

In her draft Opinion Ms Járóka urges the Member States to guarantee that existing and future legal frameworks include provisions for preventing and addressing the multiple forms of discrimination faced by Roma women in order to improve their socio-economic status. The rapporteur also calls on the governments to improve Roma women's economic independence by promoting an easy self-employment start-up of SMEs, access to micro-credits, and by stimulating a service economy within their own settlements (e.g. small supermarkets, restaurants and repair shops) to expand Roma women's knowledge and expertise.

*Adoption in FEMM: 6 November 2008*

*Plenary: December 2008 (tbc)*

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### **Delivering lifelong learning for knowledge, creativity and innovation: implementation of the education and training 2010 work programme** (Draftsperson: **Marie PANAYOTOPOULOS-CASSIOTOU (PPE-DE)**)

The draft opinion stresses the importance of education in promoting equality between women and men. It notes the persistent gender segregation in educational systems, in particular under-representation of women in certain fields of study, as well as their lower participation in post-graduate levels of higher education, and it calls upon the Member states to remedy the situation. The draft opinion also draws attention to less favourable situations of certain groups of people as regards participation in the labour market, and suggests that adult education and lifelong learning programmes should pay particular attention to those groups.

*Adoption in FEMM: 6 November 2008*

*Adoption in CULT: 6 November 2008*

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### **The implementation of the Structural Funds Regulation 2007 - 2013: the results of the negotiations on the national cohesion strategies and the operational programmes** (Draftsperson: **Zita PLEŠTINSKÁ (PPE-DE)**)

The draft opinion calls on the Member States to inform local authorities, NGOs and women organisations in a proper way about the possibilities of financing in the frame of the new programming period 2007-2013; it calls on the Member States to ensure that excessive administrative obstacles do not deter non-governmental organisations wishing to apply for project-financing and to avoid excessive delay in the reimbursement of the costs of completed projects, the insolvency caused by such a practice frequently prevents the recipients, mainly local authorities and non-profit-making organisations from pursuing further activities.

*Adoption in FEMM: 6 November 2008*

*Adoption in REGI: 2 December 2008*

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## THE COMMITTEE WILL VOTE ON:

**Recommendations on the application of the principle of equal pay for men and women** (Rapporteur: **Edit BAUER (PPE-DE)**)

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

Draft opinion on **Measures to combat the sexual exploitation of children and child pornography** (Draftsperson: **Lissy GRÖNER (PSE)**)

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13 OCTOBER

### **PUBLIC HEARING (15.00 - 17.00)**

#### **Combat of violence against women**

The public hearing aims to establish the current situation as regards combating violence against women. Among the guests will be Vice-President Jacques Barrot. Mendes Bota will represent Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly. Professor Maria Pia Baccari Vari from Italy and Enriqueta Chicano from Spain (NGO "Fundación de Mujeres Progresistas") are invited as speakers.

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### **WORKSHOP (17.00 - 18.30)**

**- The situation of women in the Balkans** (Rapporteur: **Zita GURMAI (PSE)**)

In the framework of Zita Gurmai's report on "Women in Balkans", the Policy department will organise a workshop on Monday 13 October from 5 P.M. on this issue (room ASP 1G2). The objective of this workshop is to bring together experts who are active in the field to discuss the situation of women in Western Balkans with Members of the FEMM committee. The programme will be available soon.

#### **Details of the next meeting**

**Thursday 6 November 2008**  
**9.00-12.30 / 15.00 - 18.30**

For more information, please contact  
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Link to committee meeting documents: