

NEWSLETTER

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

January's meetings agenda in brief...

- ✓ Exchange of views with Marjeta Cotman, Minister for Labour, Family and Social Affairs, Slovenia, Presidency-in-Office;
- ✓ Public hearing on "Sexual and reproductive health and rights"
- ✓ Consideration of draft opinions on "White paper on sport", "2006 discharge: EC general budget, Section III, Commission", "White Paper on nutrition, overweight and obesity related health issues", "Green Paper on the role of civil society in drugs policy in the EU".

Details of the meeting:

Monday, 28 January 2008; 15:00 - 17:30
Tuesday, 29 January 2008; 9:00 - 12:30

SLOVENIAN PRESIDENCY

Exchange of views with Marjeta Cotman, Minister

Ms Marjeta Cotman will present the work programme of the Slovenian presidency in the field of gender equality. Slovenia declares its aims to place a particular emphasis on the elimination of gender stereotypes in society and the importance of strengthening the role and status of women in achieving gender equality. It will continue to monitor the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and will, in this context, develop indicators for girls and boys and prepare a report on women in decision-making processes. One of the emphases of the Slovenian Presidency will be placed on the gender mainstreaming approach to be promoted in all relevant policy processes and areas. A programme of exchange of good practices, initiated by the Commission, will begin to be implemented through the first expert seminar organized during Slovenia's Presidency, which will tackle the issue of reconciling work, private and family life.

PUBLIC HEARING "Sexual and reproductive health and rights"

Tuesday, 29 January 2008, 9.30-12.30, room ASP 3G2

The public hearing will aim at revealing the recent trends regarding sexual and reproductive health and rights in the European Union. It will present different policies and its implications for women in different Member States as well as ways to strengthen equality policies in the area. Among the guests who will give presentations are: Sandra Dahlén, author, gender and sexuality educator and consultant in collaboration with NGOs, schools and authorities (Sweden); Wanda Nowicka, President of ASTRA Network - Federation for Women and Family Planning (Poland), Irene Donadio, Advocacy Officer, IPPF European Network (Belgium) and Dr. Douglas A. Sylva, Senior Fellow, Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute (USA).

DRAFT OPINIONS

White paper on sport (Draftsperson: PIA LOCATELLI (PSE))

The White Paper will guide the Commission in its sport-related activities in the coming years. The proposals included in the action plan aim to develop new physical activity guidelines, to facilitate a coordinated EU approach in the fight against doping, to introduce the award of a European label to schools actively supporting physical activities, to launch a study on volunteering in sport, to improve opportunities for supporting social inclusion; to promote the use of sport as a tool in the EU's development policy, etc. The Draftsperson believes that the gender dimension is essential in all the actions to be taken. The draft opinion stresses the necessity to improve the participation of women in sports and calls for campaigns to raise awareness of the benefits of sport and physical activity. It also calls for the implementation of gender responsive budget aimed at increasing women participation in sports.

Adoption in FEMM: 27 February 2008

Adoption in CULT: 31 March 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.

2006 discharge: EC general budget, Section III, Commission (Draftsperson: **LIDIA GERINGER DE OEDENBERG (PSE)**)

As every year, FEMM will contribute to the annual report by the Committee on Budgetary Control on Discharge of the Commission budget. The draft opinion draws attention to the fact that still much remains to be done as regards gender budgeting and availability of data on gender impact of expenditure. The Draftsperson expresses her concern about the low payments implementation rate of the Daphne programme, as well as the situation regarding the Structural Funds (increase of outstanding commitments and still low efficiency of control in the Member States), and asks the Commission to remedy the situation in the future.

Adoption in FEMM: 27 February 2008

Adoption in CONT: 25 March 2008

White Paper on nutrition, overweight and obesity related health issues (Draftsperson: **ANNA ZABORSKA, Chair**)

The White Paper on obesity follows the Green Paper presented by the Commission in 2005 on the same subject, on which FEMM adopted an opinion. The final opinion that called for a gender mainstreaming approach in the data collection, policies and communication strategy had, nonetheless, very little impact on the final report. That is the reason why FEMM wishes to insist once again on the necessity to have a gender perspective in the activities proposed in the White Paper, especially as regards the local actions, the collection of data and evaluation of initiatives.

Adoption in FEMM: 28 February 2008

Adoption in ENVI: 26 March 2008

Green Paper on the role of civil society in drugs policy in the EU (Draftsperson: **ANNA ZABORSKA (EPP-ED)**)

The draft opinion aims at bringing in the debate certain gender specific issues, such as maternal/foetal health, the specific conditions of minors and the support to relatives of drug addicts. Furthermore, the draft opinion invites to estimate the social costs of the drug addiction, as well as to develop indicators in order to measure the efficiency of public policies related to drugs.

Adoption in FEMM: 27 February 2008

Adoption in LIBE: 28 February 2008

THE COMMITTEE WILL VOTE ON:

Draft report on **Situation of women in rural areas of the European Union** (Rapporteur: **CHRISTA KLASS (EPP-ED)**)

Draft report on **The situation of women in prison and the impact of the imprisonment of parents on social and family life** (Rapporteur: **MARIE PANAYOTOPOULOS-CASSIOTOU (EPP-ED)**)

Draft opinion on **EU Consumer Policy strategy 2007-2013** (Draftsperson: **ANNA HEDH (PSE)**)

Details of the next meeting:

Wednesday, 27 February 2008; 15:00 - 17:30

Thursday, 28 February 2008; 9:00 - 12.30

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:

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