



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

Celebration of the International Women's Day 2008

**Conference on
"The role of women in the intercultural dialogue"**

Thursday, 6 March 2008 from 9.00 to 11.00
European Parliament, Hemicycle, rue Wiertz, Brussels

**Seminar on
"Gender mainstreaming in parliamentary works"**

Thursday, 6 March 2008 from 11.00 to 18.00
European Parliament, Hemicycle, rue Wiertz, Brussels

PRELIMINARY DRAFT PROGRAMME

9.00 Conference: "The role of women in the intercultural dialogue"

OPENING

Hans-Gert Pöttering, President of the European Parliament and Gertrude Mongella, President of the Pan-African Parliament.

INTERVENTIONS

The invited speakers are: Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, President of the Republic of Argentina, Ján Figel, Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth, Marjane Satrapi, author and director, official EU Ambassador of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue, Naomi Chazan (Israel) and Lama Hourani (Palestinian Territories), members of the International Women's Commission.

The EP Members, Erna Hennicot-Schoepges, Rapporteur for the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue, and Emine Bozkurt, Rapporteur on the Situation of women in Turkey, will also take the floor.

A short exchange of views will take place at the end of the conference (maximum 30 minutes).
The delegations of national Parliaments are invited to participate in the conference.

11.00 Seminar: "Gender mainstreaming in parliamentary works"

The aim of the seminar is to exchange best practices from national and European Parliaments in the field of Gender mainstreaming.

For example, the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality of the European Parliament drafts a bi-annual report on Gender mainstreaming in the work of other committees. Such report is based on the exchange of views with responsible Members of each committee and on the creation of a network between all administrators involved in order to foster exchange of information and raise awareness.

There are no limitations as regards the political fields to discuss since Gender mainstreaming has a transversal nature.

OPENING

Marjeta Cotman, Minister of Labour, Family and Social Affairs, Republic of Slovenia (Council Presidency), Vladimír Špidla, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou, Vice-President of the European Parliament, Chair of the High-Level Group on Gender Equality and Diversity.

INTERVENTIONS OF EXPERTS

Two experts will take the floor on Gender mainstreaming and the new political challenges.

INTERVENTIONS OF NATIONAL AND EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTS

National delegations will take the floor to present their practices and parliamentary experiences in the field of gender equality (a lunch break is foreseen).

18.00 Conclusions and closure.