

# NEWSLETTER

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

### May's meeting agenda in brief..

- ✓ Gender Mainstreaming in the AFCO Committee;
- ✓ Consideration of draft report on "Equality between women and men - 2008";
- ✓ Consideration of draft opinions on "Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty, including child poverty, in the EU" and "Parliament's new role and responsibilities implementing the Treaty of Lisbon";
- ✓ Consideration of working documents on "Transposition and application of Directive 2002/73/EC";
- ✓ Oral question to the Commission on "Forced prostitution and trafficking in women for the purpose of sexual exploitation";
- ✓ UNIFEM - Strategic plan 2008-2011 and reform of the architecture for gender equality.

### Details of the meeting:

Monday, 26 May 2008; 15:00 - 17:30  
Tuesday, 27 May 2008; 9:00 - 12.30

### GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN THE WORK OF COMMITTEES

Exchange of views with Anneli Jäätteenmäki (ALDE), Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO)

How gender dimension is being implemented in the work of the AFCO committee, what the main obstacles are and how they could be removed - will be the main questions that Anneli Jäätteenmäki, Vice-Chair of AFCO, will address during the session on gender mainstreaming.

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### ORAL QUESTION TO THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Forced prostitution and trafficking in women for the purpose of sexual exploitation

The need to prevent and combat trafficking and forced prostitution during the world sports events was drawn to the public in the framework of the FIFA World Cup 2006 through a campaign launched by the FEMM committee, in connection with the International Women's Day on 8 March 2006. The phenomenon of trafficking and forced prostitu-

tion risks repeating itself during the UEFA Euro 2008 Championship, co-hosted by Austria and Switzerland and starting on 7 June 2008. For this reason, the committee will again highlight this unacceptable violence against women and girls.

*Adoption in FEMM: 26 June 2008  
Plenary: 4- 5 June 2008*

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### DRAFT REPORT

Equality between women and men - 2008 (Rapporteur: Iratxe GARCÍA PÉREZ (PSE))

The draft report welcomes the Commission report, as well as the consultation between the Commission and the social partners; however, it notes that in spite of the significant progress in the field, many inequalities between women and men persist.

The draft report addresses gender gaps in employment, women participation in decision-making, reconciliation of professional, family and private life. It stresses the necessity to pay special attention to the needs of vulnerable groups of women, such as disabled women, women with dependants, elderly women, minority and immigrant women.

The rapporteur stresses that violence against women is a major obstacle to equality between women and men; therefore she calls for a concerted action combating violence against women.

*Adoption in FEMM: 24 - 25 June 2008  
Plenary: 3 September 2008*

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### DRAFT OPINIONS

Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty, including child poverty, in the EU (Draftsperson: ANNA ZÁBORSKÁ (EPP-ED))- enhanced cooperation with EMPL committee

The draft opinion focuses on the role of parents, institutions and organised civil society in the development of the child and its protection, in particular from poverty.

The draft opinion mentions as well the necessity to support poor families in order for them to maintain their educative roles towards children, notably through financial support and/or help to seek an employment, rather than taking the

### 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.

children away from poor parents. A better understanding of the situation, and of the possible solutions, is needed for an efficient policy at EU level. The draft opinion calls, therefore, on Eurostat to develop indicators to measure the success of policies and on academics to investigate further the role of natural networks of intergenerational solidarity.

*Adoption in FEMM: 24 - 25 June 2008*  
*Adoption in EMPL: 10 September 2008*

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### **Parliament's new role and responsibilities implementing the Treaty of Lisbon** (Draftsperson: **CLAIRE GIBAUT (ALDE)**)

The draftsperson notes with satisfaction that gender equality has been included among the Union's values and objectives. The draft opinion welcomes the broadening of the scope of the principle of gender mainstreaming. As a result of the decision to devote a specific article among the general implementing provisions to the principle of gender mainstreaming, in the future it will apply to all Union measures and will become a genuine horizontal provision applicable to all areas of the EU.

The draftsperson welcomes the fact that measures to combat trafficking in human beings will be covered by the ordinary procedure. The draft calls on the Commission, within three years following the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon, to provide the EP with an initial assessment of the impact of the Treaty in the Member States on the fight against trafficking in women and children for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

*Adoption in FEMM: 27 May 2008*  
*Adoption in AFCO: 16 July 2008*

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### **WORKING DOCUMENT**

**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** (Rapporteur: **TERESA RIERA-MADURELL (PSE)**)

The Directive 2002/73/EC, decided by the Parliament and the Council is an important milestone for equal treatment of women and men, such as preventing harassment and sexual harassment, direct and indirect discrimination, protecting victims and setting up so called Equality Bodies to promote equal treatment of women and men, etc. It is obvious that slow or low quality implementation of this Directive endangers the implementation of the Lisbon strategy and, thus, hinders the full achievement of equality on the labour market. The working document focuses on the biggest difficulties that Member States encounter when transposing the Directive: definitions, establishment of Equality bodies,

sanctions, judicial and administrative procedures, the role of the social partners, NGOs and employers.

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### **UNIFEM - Strategic plan 2008-2011 and reform of the architecture for gender equality**

**Presentation by Osnat Lubrani, director of the UNIFEM's office in Brussels**

The UNIFEM strategic plan 2008-2011 provides direction to increase its development effectiveness, to strengthen strategic partnerships and to mobilize resources for the next four years. It outlines how UNIFEM will work in partnership with the United Nations system Member States and civil society organizations to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other internationally agreed goals. The plan, as well as the programme for a reform of the UN architecture for gender equality will be presented.

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### **THE COMMITTEE WILL VOTE ON:**

Draft report on **How marketing and advertising affect equality between women and men** (Rapporteur: **EVA-BRITT SVENSSON (GUE/NGL)**)

Draft opinion on **Parliament's new role and responsibilities implementing the Treaty of Lisbon** (Draftsperson: **CLAIRE GIBAUT (ALDE)**)

Draft opinion on **Coordination of social security systems: implementing procedures** (Draftsperson: **ZUZANA ROITHOVÁ (EPP-ED)**)

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

**Tuesday, 24 June 2008; 15:00 - 17:30**  
**Wednesday, 25 June 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](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](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2004_2009/organes/femm/femm_meetinglist.htm)