

# NEWSLETTER

## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY - September 2009 -

### COMMITTEE IN THE 7TH PARLIAMENTARY TERM



Eva-Britt Svensson

The committee was constituted on 16 July 2009, with Ms Eva-Britt Svensson (GUE/NGL, SV) as Chairwoman, Ms Livia Járóka (EPP, HU), Ms Edite Estrela (S-D, PT), Ms Elisabeth Morin-Chartier (EPP, FR) and Ms Barbara Matera (EPP, IT) as Vice-Chairs. The committee consists of 35 full Members.

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### SEPTEMBER MEETING AGENDA IN BRIEF

- 🕒 2010 budget: Section III - Commission
- 🕒 Improvements in the safety and health at work of pregnant workers and workers who have recently given birth or are breastfeeding
- 🕒 Work programme of the Swedish Presidency
- 🕒 Committee work programme from September 2009 to December 2010

**Details of the meeting:**  
**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September**  
**10.30 - 12.30 / 15.00 - 18.30**  
**Meeting room: ASP 3E2**

**Live web streaming of the meeting from 15.00 [here](#).**

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### DRAFT OPINION - Consideration and vote

#### 2010 budget: Section III - Commission

During its meeting on 16 July, FEMM Coordinators decided to reconfirm Ms Edit Bauer (EPP) as Draftsperson for the opinion on Budget 2010. The deadline for tabling amendments to the draft opinion and the draft budget was 12 August at 12.00. Members of the FEMM committee tabled 28 amendments on the budget opinion and 17 amendments on the draft budget. Their consideration and vote will take place during the committee meeting on 1 September.

The deadline for re-tabling FEMM amendments not adopted by BUDG committee to the Plenary is set on 15 October 2010.

Draftsperson: **Edit Bauer** (EPP)

### EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

#### Improvements in the safety and health at work of pregnant workers and workers who have recently given birth or are breastfeeding

First exchange of views in the 7th legislature on Edite Estrela's report. The report was referred back to the FEMM committee by Plenary on 6 May 2009 upon a request from the EPP-ED group (347 in favour, 256 against, 10 abstentions). Amongst the hot issues to be discussed in the committee is the extension of the duration of maternity leave to at least 20 weeks, the full salary for the weeks after giving birth, and the introduction of a clause on the paternity leave to be compulsory minimum two weeks after the birth of the child.

Rapporteur: **Edite Estrela** (S-D)

### WORK PROGRAMME OF THE SWEDISH PRESIDENCY OF THE EU

#### Presentation by Ms Nyamko Sabuni, Minister for Integration and Gender Equality, Presidency-in-office, followed by an exchange of views

*(This item can be followed live on-line as from 15.00 by clicking [here](#).)*



The Swedish Presidency aims at strengthening gender equality and improving protection against discrimination with a view on tackling short- and long-term challenges of the EU. In order to boost the EU's utilisation of the potential of both women and men, the work will focus on the importance of gender equality for economic growth and employment. Progress in the area of gender equality will contribute to a society characterised by social cohesion, high employment and sustainable economic growth.

Other important issues include initiatives to counter men's violence against women and following up the UN action plan for gender equality, the Beijing Platform for Action by reporting on the developments in Member States over the last five years.

Decisions are expected on two draft directives reconciling work and family life and providing increased health and safety protection: equal treatment of self-employed women and men (Lulling report) and measures to improve health and safety in the workplace for workers who are pregnant, have recently given birth or are breastfeeding (Estrela report).

Furthermore the Presidency will work to ensure that decisions can be taken on the directive on the equal treatment of persons irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.

### 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.

***COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME -  
SEPTEMBER 2009 - DECEMBER 2010***

In the frame of an exchange of views, Members will have the chance to contribute with ideas, suggestions and remarks to establishing a prospective work programme for the committee until December 2010. The scope of the programme shall include activities, such as public hearings, workshops, delegation visits and the International Women's Day. Own initiative reports, resolutions, studies, notes and briefings will also be prepared along the guidelines set up in the adopted work programme.

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

- Draft opinion on **2010 Budget - Section III - Commission**  
Draftsperson: **Edit Bauer** (EPP)

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**Details of the next meeting**

*Tuesday 29 September 2009 (15.00-18.30)*  
*Wednesday 30 September 2009 (9.00-12.30)*

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For more information, please contact

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FEMM website: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/homeCom.do?language=EN&body=FEMM>

Link to committee meeting documents:

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2009\\_2014/organes/femm/femm\\_7leg\\_meetinglist.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2009_2014/organes/femm/femm_7leg_meetinglist.htm)