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COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY
THE CHAIRPERSON

To the attention of the Network of Parliamentary Committees for
Equal Opportunities for Women and Men in the European Union
(NCEO)

Dear Sir/Madam

**Subject: Invitation to a Conference on "Women and the European Elections",
Thursday, 5 March 2009, from 9 am to 12.30 pm, Brussels**

I have the great pleasure to invite you to this conference organized by the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality of the European Parliament for the Celebration of the International Women's Day.

This Day has always been a highlight of European Parliament's activities in the field of equality between women and men. Every year, this moment of celebration and reflection is an occasion to raise awareness on the persistent gender gaps in our societies.

For the year 2009, the conference will focus on the European elections and the role of women. A draft programme is at Annex.

It appears natural in this context to involve actively the national Parliaments in order to enrich our knowledge and to share our experiences, and to invite the Network of Parliamentary Committees for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men in the European Union (NCEO) to this conference.

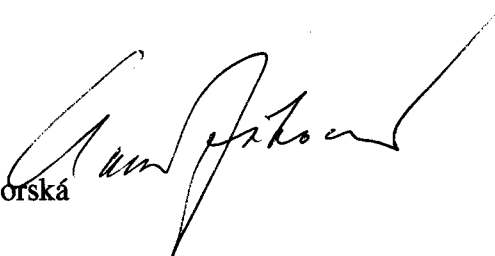
The meeting will take place on 5 March, from 9.00 to 12.30 in the Hemicycle of the European Parliament, Building Paul-Henri SPAAK, Rue Wiertz 60, 1047 Brussels.

Each national Parliament is invited to send a delegation of six members in order to facilitate the representation of bicameral Parliaments as well as to enable majority and opposition to be represented. According to the established practice, parliamentarians can be accompanied by administrators (one per two Members). The composition and the details of the delegation should be indicated in the attached **registration form** which should be sent to the following e-mail address IP-FEMM@europarl.europa.eu as soon as possible and **no later than 20 February 2009**.

I thank you warmly in advance for your support to this important event.

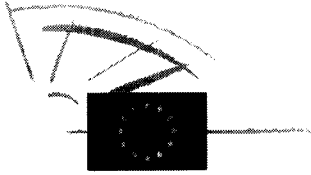
Yours sincerely,

Anna Záborská

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anna Záborská', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Annexes:

- Draft programme
- Registration form



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

Celebration of the International Women's Day 2009
With the participation of the Network NCEO/CCEC of National Parliaments

"Women and European elections"

Thursday, 5 March 2009 from 9.00 to 12.30
European Parliament, Hemicycle, rue Wiertz, Brussels

Chair: Anna ZÁBORSKÁ

DRAFT PROGRAMME

- 9.00** Welcome by Anna Záborská, Chair of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality
- Hans-Gert Pöttering, President of the European Parliament (tbc)
- Michael Kocáb, Czech Minister for human rights and national minorities, Council Presidency (tbc)
- Margot Wallström, Vice President of the European Commission in charge of institutional relations and communication
- Vladimír Špidla, Commissioner for employment, social affairs and equal opportunities
- Astrid Lulling, Member of the European Parliament (tbc)
- Pr. Drude Dahlerup, Department of Political Science, Stockholm University, author of a study on "Electoral Gender Quota Systems and their implementation in Europe"
- 10.30** Statements by Members of National and European Parliaments
- General debate
- 12.30** Conclusions and closure by Anna Záborská

A press conference and a reception will follow.

REGISTRATION FORM
for the celebration of the International Women's Day 2009
at the European Parliament
5 March 2009

CONFERENCE ON "WOMEN AND EUROPEAN ELECTIONS"
from 9.00 to 12.30

Hemicycle of the European Parliament
(Building Paul-Henri Spaak, rue Wiertz 60, 1047 Brussels)

Organisation	
Family Name and First Name	
Contact details Name of contact person Address and telephone number e-mail	