

*International Women's Day 2013 in the EP*

*INFO-SHEET for National Parliaments*

The celebration of the International Women's Day is an established tradition within the European Parliament and an expression of Parliament's strong commitment to Human Rights in general.

Each year around 8 March, an interparliamentary committee meeting is organised to which Members of National Parliaments (NP) of the EU Member States and candidate countries are invited, as well as Members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. Following a decision of the Women's Rights' Committee the event will focus in 2013 on the theme:

*"Women's response to the crisis"*

Participants of the meeting will discuss the gender dimension of the economic downturn and the financial crisis and share their experiences and best practices to define ways out of this crisis.

The meeting will take place on Thursday, 7 March 2013, from 9.00 to 12.30 hours in the EP premises in Brussels.

The President of the European Parliament, Martin Schulz, will open the meeting which will be chaired by Mikael Gustafsson, Chair of the Women's Rights' Committee. Following a first panel composed of high-level personalities, the second panel will be dedicated to the exchange of views with Members of NP. They are kindly requested to reply beforehand to a short questionnaire which serves to prepare the discussion and inform the audience in a comprehensive manner. All contributions from National Parliaments will be included in the meeting dossier and made available during the event.

Three interventions (of each max.10 minutes) by representatives of NP are foreseen on 7 March. Each intervention will be followed by a short answer-question session (max. 2 minutes for the reply), if time allows. Representatives of NP are invited to inform the FEMM-secretariat should their Members volunteer to hold a speech.

Besides, further interventions (of a maximum of 3 minutes) may be requested during all three panels by filling in a "*speaking card*" which will be handed out during the meeting. Speaking time will be limited and observed during the whole meeting by the Chair.

Further practical details regarding the meeting as well as detailed programme will be forwarded in due course by the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments.

FEMM-Secretariat  
27 December 2012

