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Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality  
Committee on Legal Affairs  
The Chairs

**For the attention of the Committee Chair responsible in the national Parliament**

Dear Colleague,

We are writing to you to invite you to an exchange of views with Members of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality and the Committee on Legal Affairs on the Commission proposal for a directive on improving gender balance among non-executive directors of companies listed on stock exchanges and related measures. As you know, the European Parliament is currently examining and debating this legislative proposal, which will be a key instrument for achieving a more balanced representation of men and women on company boards.

We are convinced that an open and broad discussion of the proposal is necessary and would therefore like to provide a forum for this discussion within one of our upcoming committee meetings. Now that both branches of the legislature have started considering the Commission proposal, we believe that an exchange of views between national Parliamentarians and Members of the European Parliament will be extremely valuable. It will allow participants to be properly informed about the respective positions and to directly exchange arguments so as to engage in a common reflection process. The discussion will also help the rapporteurs in the two Committees which share the lead within Parliament to prepare their joint draft report, which is due to be presented in July 2013.

The meeting will take place on Wednesday 19 June 2013, from 09:30 to 12:30, in the European Parliament's premises in Brussels.

We are thus very pleased to invite to a joint meeting of the Women's Committee and the Legal Affairs Committee a representative of the responsible committee(s) of your Parliament (parliamentary chamber for bicameral national Parliaments).

The programme of this meeting and more detailed practical information will be communicated to the representatives of your Parliament's services for relations with the European Parliament.

We sincerely hope that you will be able to accept our invitation, and we are already looking forward to welcoming you at the European Parliament.

With best regards,

Mikael Gustafsson

Klaus-Heiner Lehne