

NEWSLETTER

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

November meeting agenda in brief:

- ✓ The role of women in the Arab countries;
- ✓ Consideration of draft reports on Non-discrimination based on gender and inter-generational solidarity, and on Equal treatment for men and women in the performing arts;
- ✓ Consideration of draft opinions on a European initiative for the development of micro-credit, on Small Business Act, and on the relations between the EU and the Mediterranean countries.

Details of the meeting:

Thursday 6 November 2008,
9.00 – 12.30 / 15.00 – 18.30

DRAFT REPORTS

Non-discrimination based on gender and inter-generational solidarity (Rapporteur: **Anna ZABORSKA (PPE-DE)**) -

Following the mini-hearing and the working document on non-discrimination based on gender and solidarity between generations, Anna Záborská presents her draft Report. The document mainly focuses on direct and indirect discrimination towards women and men who are responsible for taking care of dependent people. A better understanding of the relation between employment (paid work) and family obligations (unpaid work) is, in fact, essential for the economic independence of women and equality between women and men. To this end, the rapporteur calls Member States to take measures aiming at recognising this informal work and urges systems of national accounts (SNAs) to measure its impact on GDP.

Adoption in FEMM: 1-2 December 2008
Plenary: January 2009

Equal treatment and access for men and women in the performing arts (Rapporteur: **Claire GIBAUT (ALDE)**)

In her draft Report Claire Gibault underlines the gender inequality in performing arts and the impact this inequality can have on the society. She insists on the necessity of promoting and encouraging the access of women to all artistic occupations where they are still in minority. The rapporteur

stresses the importance to guarantee wherever possible the anonymity of applications and screened (blind) auditioning, which has helped women musicians to integrate in orchestras. Member States are encouraged to reflect, together with the cultural institutions, on the best way to avoid sex discrimination and to eliminate all obstacles for women to reach top positions in this sector.

Adoption in FEMM: 1-2 December 2008
Plenary: March 1 2009

ARAB WEEK



The role of women in the Arab countries

This discussion is organised in the framework of the Arab Week in the EP. As part of the discussion, prof. Malika Benradi will speak on women's rights in Morocco and North Africa, Ms. Amal al-Basha will present the situation of women in Yemen, and Ms. Sara Silvestri (UK) will speak on North African women moving across the Mediterranean.

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.

CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS

Transposition and application of Directive 2002/73/EC (Rapporteur: **Teresa RIERA MADURELL (PSE)**)

The Rapporteur has examined the way in which the Directive has been transposed and applied in different Member States, in close collaboration with National Parliaments, national Equality Bodies and the Commission. 17 amendments have been tabled to the draft report, to which EMPL has presented an opinion.

Adoption in FEMM: 1-2 December 2008
Plenary: January 2009

DRAFT OPINIONS

A European initiative for the development of micro-credit in support of growth and employment (Draftsperson: **Corien WORTMANN-KOOL (PPE-DE)**)

The draft opinion stresses that micro-credits are not only an issue of entrepreneurship and economic growth, but also of social inclusion, since they are an important tool to improve the status of women, and an effective measure against poverty.

It urges to raise awareness of the potentials of micro-credits through publicity and awareness-raising programmes, to standardise the statistical presentation of micro-credits (including the breakdown of data by gender and age), and to consider women as a target group and to give them an appropriate position in the programmes and initiatives related to micro-credits

Adoption in FEMM: 1-2 December 2008
Adoption in ECON: 21 January 2009
Plenary: March 2009

The relations between the European Union and the Mediterranean countries (Draftsperson: **Ilda FIGUEIREDO (GUE/NGL)**)

In her draft opinion Ilda Figueiredo urges the Member States and all the Mediterranean partners involved in the Barcelona Process to give more consideration to the situation of women and to equal opportunities for men and women, to

combat discrimination against women and to promotion of positive measures.

The Draftsperson calls on the Barcelona Process to consider public funding of projects to improve women's living conditions - particularly in the fields of sexual and reproductive health and education - and the creation of quality jobs for women.

Adoption in FEMM: 1-2 December 2008
Adoption in AFET: 2 December 2008
Plenary: January 2009

European Small Business Act (Draftsperson: **Anni PODIMATA (PSE)**)

In her draft opinion Anni Podimata welcomes the Commission for taking into account the EP request to stimulate women entrepreneurship and calls upon to integrate this dimension in the "Erasmus for young entrepreneurs" programme. Member States and the Commission are also invited to make sure that the current financial crisis will not damage Small and Medium Sized Enterprises and, in particular, women entrepreneurship.

Adoption in FEMM: 1-2 December 2008
Adoption in ITRE: 19 January 2009
Plenary: February 2009

THE COMMITTEE WILL VOTE ON:

Draft report on **Prostitution and its health consequences** (Rapporteur: **Maria ROBSAHM (ALDE)**)

Draft opinion on **the situation of women in the Balkans** (Rapporteur: **Zita GURMAL (PSE)**)

Draft opinion on **Implementation of the Structural Funds Regulation 2007-2013** (Draftsperson: **Zita PLEŠTINSKÁ (PPE-DE)**)

Draft opinion on **the social situation of the Roma and improving their access to the labour market in the EU** (Draftsperson: **Livia JÁRÓKA (PPE-DE)**)

Details of the next meeting

***Monday 1 December (15.00-18.30) and
Tuesday 2 December (9.00-10.45)***

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Link to committee meeting documents:

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