

## NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER II 2017

### NOTE FROM THE CHAIR



Dear Readers,

The next FEMM committee meeting will take place on Monday 25 September 2017. As you can see, in the next weeks we are going to deal with topics related to economic and social affairs and the external dimension of women's rights and gender equality.

On the socio-economic field we are going to discuss on the empowerment of women from two different perspectives. The situation of young women in terms of employment will be exhaustively debated in our committee meetings through the consideration of a draft opinion on the result of the implementation of the Youth Employment Initiative in the Member States.

The exchange of views on contraception and family planning that will take place on the occasion of the World Contraception Day, has also a clear link to women's empowerment and will tackle current issues on sexual and reproductive health and rights. Also in the economic field, the Committee will vote its position on the general budget of the EU for the financial year 2018. On the external dimension of the remit of FEMM Committee, we will host the presentation of the framework of the EU's external relations contribution to gender equality and women's empowerment and we will assess its first year of implementation. Finally the Committee will debate its draft opinion on the 2016 Annual Report on human rights and democracy in the world and the EU's policy on the matter.

Stay with us and follow our meetings via the [Webstream!](#)

**25 SEPTEMBER 2017**

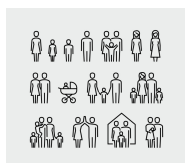
### The implementation of the Youth Employment Initiative in the Member States - Consideration of draft opinion



The Draftsperson, Ms Vilija Blinkevičiūtė (S&D, Lithuania) highlights positive effects of the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI), but at the same time calls for more data and impact analysis of the effects of the YEI on the situation of women and girls. The draft opinion calls on Member States to develop new innovative and more personalised ways to reach target groups, as well as finding ways to support young women's re-entry into the labour market or education through childcare and adult care. Focus should be also on sustainability and quality of offers.

[Link to the procedure](#)

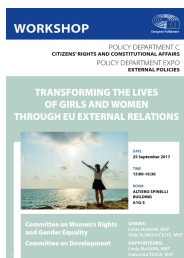
### Contraception and family planning - Exchange of views



The Committee organises an exchange of views on "Contraception and family planning", ahead of the World Contraception Day, which is celebrated every year on 26 September. Awareness about adequate contraception and family planning is an important tool in securing the well-being and autonomy of women and helps families and communities make informed decisions and engage on a sustainable path. The event will count on the presence of Ms Sietske Steneker (UNFPA Director - EU Brussels Office) and Ms Irene Donadio (Senior Lead, The International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network (IPPF)).

[Link to the Event](#)

## Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020 – Workshop



The workshop, organised jointly by Policy Department C and the Policy Department of DG EXPO for FEMM and DEVE Committees, will bring opinions of experts on the implementation of the Joint Staff Working Document on "Transforming the lives of girls and women through EU external relations", which was published by the European Commission and the European External Action Service on 21 September 2015. It will be a preparation for an implementation report on the same topic, on which both Committees are working. Co-rapporteurs are Ms Dubravka Šuica (EPP, Croatia) on behalf of FEMM and Ms Linda McAvan (S&D, UK) on behalf of DEVE.

The Joint Staff Working Document includes the gender action plan for development 2016-2020 and is a new framework for the EU's activities on gender equality and women's empowerment in the EU's external relations, proposing a refreshed approach for the EU's policy and political commitments on gender equality to transform into more effective delivery of concrete results for girls and women.

[Link to the procedure](#)

[Link to the Event](#)

## Annual Report on human rights and democracy in the world and the EU's policy on the matter 2016 - Consideration of the draft opinion



The draftsperson, Mr Jordi Solé (Greens/EFA, Spain), will present the draft opinion on the Annual Report on human rights and democracy in the world prepared by the sub-committee on human rights (DROI). The draft opinion sets forth a series of recommendations and calls for integrating gender mainstreaming into all EU legislation, guidelines, actions and funding as a core EU principle, with a special emphasis on EU external relations policies. It also condemns all forms of violence against women and gender-based violence, including the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and recommends including education at the core of EEAS policies with the aim of ensuring full and equal access to education to all children.

[Link to the procedure](#)

## General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2018 - Adoption of draft opinion



The Draftsperson for opinion, Ms Barbara Matera (EPP, Italy), included as priorities in the draft opinion the use of gender budgeting and allocations to support women's entrepreneurship and their access to finance. Sufficient funding and a separate budget line for the Daphne specific objective is requested. Possible European Observatory on violence against women or on femicide, if created, should be within EIGE so that its expertise and available resources can be efficiently and synergistically used. 14 amendments were tabled.

[Link to the procedure](#)

### The next FEMM committee meeting:

**Tuesday 10 October 2017, 09.00 to 12.30 and from 15.00 to 18.30**

**Brussels**



#### Contact the editor:

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