

GENDER EQUALITY



WHAT DO THE PARLIAMENTS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION DO

Introductory workshop for journalists

2 October 2012

15:30 - 18:15 hrs

Room 06B001, Paul-Henri Spaak building

European Parliament, Brussels

Programme

- 15:30 **Registration**
Signing in for workshop and coffee reception outside meeting room
- 16:00 **Technical introduction**
Paula Fernández Hervás, EP Official, Press Service
Armelle Douaud, EP Official, Women's Rights and Gender Equality Committee Secretariat
Alberto Rossetti, Head of Equality/Diversity Unit
- 16:20 **Welcome**
Juana Lahousse-Juárez, Director General for Communication
- 16:30 **Opening of the workshop**
MEP Roberta Angelilli (EPP, IT), Vice-President of the European Parliament and Chair of the High-level Group on Gender Equality and Diversity
MEP Mikael Gustafsson (GUE/NGL, SE), Chair of Women's Rights and Gender Equality Committee
- 17:00 **What does the European Parliament do for gender equality in the EU**
Moderation: Paula Fernández Hervás, EP Official, Press Service
MEP Britta Thomsen (S&D, DK), Member of the Women's Rights and Gender Equality Committee
MEP Siiri Oviir (ALDE, EE), Member of the Women's Rights and Gender Equality Committee
MEP Marina Yannakoudakis (ECR, UK) Member of the Women's Rights and Gender Equality Committee
MEP Franziska Katharina Brantner (Greens, DE), Substitute member of the Women's Rights and Gender Equality Committee
- 18:15 **End of workshop**
A reception will be hosted on the 5th floor in PHS

Gender equality: what can politicians achieve?

Equal pay for equal work, the right to parental leave and the desirability of job quotas are perennial issues on the gender equality front. However, the current crisis is lending an added urgency to the debate since the economic downturn is affecting women more than men.

The gender pay gap has been only marginally reduced in recent years and, on average, women in the EU still earn 17.5% less than men, even though they make up 60% of new university graduates. Only 12% of business executives in the EU are women and only 3% of chairpersons.

How can gender equality be advanced through legislation, through internal staff policies and communication policy and by promoting gender equality among politicians in parliaments and government? These are among the topics to be explored at a **joint meeting of MEPs, national MPs and specialised media in Brussels on Wednesday 3 October**.

Gender issues need to be tackled on many fronts, which is why the meeting brings together members of various political and administrative bodies.

This event takes place at the mid-way point between the International Women's Days for 2012 and 2013, which are always commemorated by a series of events at the Parliament. Journalists will also be able to find out in greater detail what steps the EP itself is taking, at an **introductory press workshop on Tuesday 2 October**, the day before the main event.

Interpretation is available in English, Italian, Spanish and Swedish.

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**JOINT MEETING OF THE HIGH-LEVEL GROUP ON GENDER EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY
AND THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY
ASSOCIATING THE
BUREAU WORKING GROUP ON COMMUNICATION
WITH COUNTERPARTS FROM NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS
TOGETHER WITH SPECIALISED MEDIA**

**"GENDER EQUALITY - WHAT DO THE PARLIAMENTS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION DO"
AN EXCHANGE OF BEST PRACTICES**

**3 OCTOBER 2012
DRAFT PROGRAMME
PHS 3C50**

- 09:30 - 10:00** **Registration for national Parliament Members**
- 10:00 - 10:10** **Welcome and opening remarks**
Ms ANGELILLI, Vice-President and Chair of the High-level Group on Gender Equality and Diversity
Mr GUSTAFSSON, Chair of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality
- 10:10 - 11:30** **Staff Policy - promoting gender equality among staff in the Parliaments administrations**
Introduction by Ms ANGELILLI
Followed by Q&A with Members
- 11:30 - 12:30** **Communication Policy - promoting gender equality through communication**
Speakers:
Ms PODIMATA and Mr KARAS, Vice-Presidents responsible for Information Policy, Press and Citizens Relations
Followed by Q&A with Members
- 12:30 - 14:15** **Lunch offered to national Parliament Members**
- by invitation only

14:15 - 15:30

Women in politics - promoting gender equality among politicians in Parliaments and in government

Speaker:

Ms PIETIKÄINEN, Member of the European Parliament and rapporteur for the report on "Women in political decision making - quality and equality"

Followed by Q&A with Members

15:30 - 16:30

Promoting gender equality in legislation - on EU level and on national level

Speaker:

Ms REDING, Commissioner for Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship

Followed by Q&A with Members

16:30 - 17:00

Conclusions by Mr GUSTAFSSON and Ms ANGELILLI