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High-Level Conference: Europe for Gender Equality? Taking Stock – Taking Action

30 SEPTEMBER – 1 OCTOBER
FINLANDIA HALL, HELSINKI, FINLAND



Programme

Monday, 30 September

MODERATOR Kirsi Heikel, *Journalist*

8.30 - 9.00 REGISTRATION AND WELCOME COFFEE

9.00 - 10.00 OPENING AND WELCOME

- Musical Performance: *Vildá*
- **Thomas Blomqvist** *Minister for Nordic Cooperation and Equality, Finland*
- **Tiina Astola** *Director-General, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers, European Commission*
- **Alexander Stubb** *Vice-President, European Investment Bank*

10.00 - 12.00 PLENARY SESSION 1

Reviewing the past – preparing for the future

The 25th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action offers an opportunity to assess the progress made in the area of gender equality during the past years and discuss the directions for future action in the EU in the beginning of a new term of the European Parliament and the European Commission.

The first session will begin with the presentation of the main findings of the Beijing +25 report by the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE). The panel will discuss the challenges, priorities and directions for action of the EU gender equality policies in the next five years on the basis of the report's conclusions and recommendations.

'Review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action – Beijing +25',

Virginija Langbakk *Director, European Institute for Gender Equality,*
Jakub Caisl *Statistics Officer, European Institute for Gender Equality*

PANEL DISCUSSION:

Post-2019 EU gender equality strategy – setting priorities, developing measures

- **Gabriele Abels** *Professor of comparative politics and European integration at the Institute of Political Science, University of Tuebingen*
- **Tiina Astola** *Director, Director-General, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers, European Commission*
- **Gwendoline Lefebvre** *President, European Women's Lobby*

Comments:

Gloria Mills *ETUC*
Anna Leclercq Vrang *BusinessEurope*

12.00 - 13.15 FAMILY PHOTO AND LUNCH

13.15 - 15.00 PLENARY SESSION 2

Promoting gender equal economies

Gender equality is a driver for sustainable and inclusive economic growth. In the same way, economic policies may have different impacts on women and men. The interlinkage between gender equality, wellbeing and the economy is also emphasised in the UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and its implementation in the EU. Promoting gender equal economies is an integral part of building a more economically and socially sustainable Europe.

The second session starts with the keynote speech by Shahra Razavi from UN Women that highlights the interconnection between EU and global gender equality policies. The panel will discuss the ways in which the links between economic and fiscal policies and the promotion of gender equality in the EU could be strengthened. More concretely, the panel will examine the measures and tools to advance economic gender equality in the EU and to strengthen the integration of gender equality into key policy processes, including the post-2020 programmes and strategies.

KEYNOTE SPEECH

'Policies for gender equality in an unequal world: Challenges and opportunities'

- **Shahra Razavi** *Chief of Research and Data, UN Women*



PANEL DISCUSSION

Gender equality and Europe post-2020: how to strengthen the links between gender equality and the economic policies of the EU

- **Shahra Razavi** *Chief of Research and Data, UN Women*
- **Barbara Kauffmann** *Director, Employment and Social Governance, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission*
- **Sirpa Pietikäinen** *Member of European Parliament*
- **Ilze Zvidrina** *Chair of the Employment Committee*

15.00 – 15.30 COFFEE

15.30 – 17.30 PLENARY SESSION 3

Combating economic and social inequalities in the EU

Gendered economic inequalities persist in the EU despite efforts to promote gender equality in working life and improve social protection systems and services. In the labour market, the gender pay gap still remains large. In European societies, women are at greater risk of poverty or social exclusion than men. Poverty or social exclusion is often concentrated among certain, particularly vulnerable, groups of women and men.

The third session addresses the economic and social inequalities in the EU from gender and intersectional perspectives, focusing on the situation of single-parent families as well as of Roma and migrant women. Furthermore, the session will look at the topical question of equal pay and the directions for future action to reduce the gender pay gap.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INEQUALITIES IN THE EU

- 'The Triple Bind of Single-Parent Families: What is needed for gender equality in the EU',
Rense Nieuwenhuis *Associate Professor, Swedish Institute for Social Research, Stockholm University*
- 'Economic and social inequalities among Roma and migrant women in the EU
– insights from the Second European Union Minorities and Discrimination survey (EU-MIDIS II)',
Rossalina Latcheva *Senior Program Manager – Statistics and Surveys, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights*

Comment: **Salome Mbugua** *Chair of European Network of Migrant Women*

GENDER PAY GAP

- 'Better legal tools against pay discrimination',
Kevät Nousiainen *Professor Emerita, University of Turku*
- 'Improving Gender Equality at Nokia',
Jenni Lukander *President of Nokia Technologies*

19.30 DINNER, HOTEL CROWNE PLAZA



8.30 - 9.00 COFFEE

9.00 - 10.30 PLENARY SESSION 4 Financing for gender equality in the EU

Gender equality is an important element in socially and economically sustainable societies and economies. The financing for gender equality should thus be an integral part of funding schemes and programmes – also in the EU. One of the main financing schemes to boost cohesion and economic growth in the EU are European Structural and Investments Funds (ESIF). Now EIGE has traced how these funds support gender equality. After EIGE's presentation we will hear how ESIF have been used to promote gender equality in some Member States. Subsequently, the present and future possibilities and challenges of the ESIF and other financing instruments of the EU in promoting gender equality will be discussed.

'European structural and investment funds - Gender equality deserves more than 1%'

Virginija Langbakk *Director, European Institute for Gender Equality*

DISCUSSION ON HOW ESIF CAN BE USED TO PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY

- **Kristyna Kabzanova** *Governmental Advisor, Gender Equality Department, Office of the Government of the Czech Republic*
- **Liina Kanter** *Head of Equality Policies Department, Ministry of Social Affairs, Estonia*
- **Olga Pietruchová** *Director, Department of Gender Equality and Equal Opportunities, Slovakia*
- **Virginija Langbakk** *Director, European Institute for Gender Equality*

10.30 - 11.00 COFFEE

11.00 - 13.00 PLENARY SESSION 5 The potential and challenges of gender responsive budgeting

One of the most promising strategies for an accountable, transparent and gender equal distribution of resources is gender responsive budgeting (GRB). There are a number of different ways to understand and implement gender budgeting in the EU, the Member States and international organisations. The fifth session will present an overview of gender budgeting practices in the EU. The panel will discuss the possibilities of and requirements for a successful GRB. The next steps for development of gender responsive budgeting in the EU will also be sketched.

'Realizing the full potential of Gender Budgeting in the EU – taking action'

Elisabeth Klatzer *PhD in Economic and Social Sciences, Vienna University of Economics and Business*

DISCUSSION

Perspectives on gender responsive budgeting

- **John Burke** *Head of Unit, Department of Public Expenditure & Reform, Ireland*
- **Alexandra Geese** *Member of Parliament, Committee on Budgets*
- **Dr. Elisabeth Klatzer** *PhD in Economic and Social Sciences*
- **Aline Pennisi** *Ministry of Economy and Finance, Italy*
- **Bernhard Windisch** *Head of Unit, Directorate-General for Budget, European Commission*

Comment: **Indrè Vareikytė** *European Economic and Social Committee*

13.00 - 13.30 CLOSING SESSION

- **Maria Kaisa Aula** *State Secretary, Finland*

Comments:

Eva Biaudet *National Council of Women of Finland*

Jens van Tricht *MenEngage Europe*

- **Irena Moozova** *Director, Equality and Union Citizenship, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers, European Commission*

13.30 - 14.30 LUNCH

