Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin - KOSMOS Workshop 2016

Panel III: Gender Equality in internal EP affairs
“Keep Calm and Carry On” Agenda-Setting and the Work of Femm

Tuesday, March 1, 2016

Markus Warasin
European Parliament
Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality
Overview:

I. European Parliament committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM) - What it is and what it does

II. The political context of agenda setting and the work of FEMM

III. Key factors which influence the decision making in FEMM dossiers

IV. Some examples

V. Conclusions
I. The European Parliament committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM) - What it is and what it does
EP committees

• In order to do the preparatory work for Parliament's plenary sittings, the Members are divided up among a number of specialised standing committees.

• The committees draw up, amend and adopt legislative proposals and own-initiative reports. They consider Commission and Council proposals and, where necessary, draw up reports to be presented to the plenary assembly.

• The parliamentary committees meet once or twice a month in Brussels.
The debates are held in public.

A committee consists of between 25 and 71 MEPs, and has a chair, a bureau and a secretariat.

The political make-up of the committees reflects “in theory” that of the plenary assembly.

There are 20 parliamentary
Foreign Affairs (+ 2 sub-committees: Human Rights + Security and Defence)
Development
International Trade
Budgets
Budgetary Control
Economic and Monetary Affairs
Employment and Social Affairs
Environment, Public Health and Food Safety
Industry, Research and Energy
Internal Market and Consumer Protection
Transport and Tourism
Regional Development
Agriculture and Rural Development
Fisheries
Culture and Education
Legal Affairs
Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs
Constitutional Affairs
Women’s Rights and Gender Equality
Petitions
Responsibilities

1. Equality promotion
   - The definition, promotion and protection of women’s rights in the Union and related Union measures

2. Third countries
   - The promotion of women’s rights in third countries

3. Equal opportunities
   - Equal opportunities policy, including the promotion of equality between men and women with regard to labour market opportunities and treatment at work

4. Gender discrimination
   - The removal of all forms of violence and discrimination based on sex

5. Gender mainstreaming
   - The implementation and further development of gender mainstreaming in all policy sectors

6. International presence
   - The follow-up and implementation of international agreements and conventions involving the rights of women

7. Information
   - Encouraging awareness of women’s rights
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Members</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chair</td>
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<td>4 Vice Chairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 Members</td>
<td>[Profiles]</td>
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<td>33 Substitutes</td>
<td>[Profiles]</td>
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</table>
Number of procedures

Source: Coordleg

* CRIS: 10/2009 - 07/2011
CRIM: 04/2009 - 10/2013
SURE: 07/2010 - 06/2011
Number of trilogues per committee

Total number of trilogues from 2009-2014: 1557

Source: DG IPOL Dir E.
Own-initiative reports and legislative own-initiative reports

Source: CoordLeg

* CRIS: 10/2009 - 07/2011
* CRIM: 04/2009 - 10/2013
* SURE: 07/2010 - 06/2011
Number of hearings

Number of committee hearings, joint hearings & citizen initiative hearings

Source: Coordleg
Upcoming work in FEMM

The working methodology of the Committee sets a couple of framework-rules:

We can have 6 INI’s in parallel, organise hearings (annual quota: 16 paid experts), go on committee missions (annual quota: 25 MEPs) and ad-hoc delegations, request studies or workshops. But the topics of the reports and hearings, the experts to be invited and consulted, or the destinations of the missions are highly politicized choices. Determining factors are
• the sizes of the political groups
• the intra-group cohesion and
• the inter-group coalition
Only as a last resort “technical” tools are used, such as the d’Hondt method for mission, points systems for the allocation of reports and opinion, or more unconventional tools like roulette...
Own-initiative reports

- The need for a EU strategy to prevent the gender pension gap;
- Differences between women and men in work, care and leisure time;
- Women's Rights in the Eastern Partnership States and other neighbouring countries;
- EU funds for gender equality;
- Promoting gender equality in mental health and clinical research;
- Women and their roles in rural areas;
- Gender equality in EU trade agreements;
- Women, Gender Equality and Climate Justice;
- Gender equality and Taxation policies in the EU.

FEMM Committee Missions - 1st half 2016 - dates

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<td>Women &amp; girls refugees centres in Germany</td>
<td>Munich</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10-12 February</td>
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<td>UN CSW 60th session of the Commission on the Status of the Women</td>
<td>New York</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>14-17 March</td>
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<td>Women &amp; girls refugees centres in Belgium</td>
<td>place: tbc</td>
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<td>18-19 May</td>
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<td>Global Summit of Women in Poland</td>
<td>Warsaw</td>
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<td>9-10 June</td>
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II. The political context of agenda setting and the work of FEMM
• During the 2014 European elections more than 17,000 candidates from 524 political parties campaigned for a seat in the EP.
• Once elected, the 751 MEPs caucus according to transnational groups based on political ideology, rather than by nationality.
• The 8th EP has 8 political groups - containing 191 individual political parties - plus a number of “non-attached” or independent members.
• The first Assembly in 1952 was not elected (no elections, no lists, no
III. Key factors which influence the decision making in FEMM dossiers:

1. Number of seats of each of the European political groups
2. Intra-group Cohesion
3. Inter-groups Coalition
1. Number of seats of each of the European political groups

EP distribution of seats/ 8th term
<table>
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<th>Country</th>
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<th>ECR</th>
<th>EPP</th>
<th>ALDE</th>
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Political group leadership

EPP - 217
Chair - Manfred Weber (DE)
S&D - 190
Chair - Gianni Pittella (IT)
ECR - 74
Chair - Syed Kamal (UK)
ALDE - 70
Chair - Guy Verhofstadt (BE)
GUE/NGL - 52
Chair - Gabi Zimmer (DE)
Greens/EFA - 50
Co-chairs - Rebecca Harms (DE) and Philippe Lamberts (BE)
EFDD* - 45
Co-chairs - Nigel Farage (UK) and David Borrelli (IT)
EFN - 39
Chair: Marine Le Pen (FR)
2. Intra-group Cohesion

(6th term)
Cohesion measures the extent in which the members of a European Party Group vote as a block or not. The higher the score, the more cohesive a European Group is.

### European Party Groups Cohesion Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy Area</th>
<th>PPE-DE</th>
<th>PSE</th>
<th>ALDE/ADLE</th>
<th>UEN</th>
<th>Greens/EFA</th>
<th>GUE-NGL</th>
<th>IND/DEM</th>
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<tr>
<td>Overall cohesion rates</td>
<td>0.88</td>
<td>0.91</td>
<td>0.89</td>
<td>0.76</td>
<td>0.91</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>0.47</td>
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<td>Agriculture</td>
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<td>0.85</td>
<td>0.80</td>
<td>0.87</td>
<td>0.77</td>
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<td>0.84</td>
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<td>0.92</td>
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Intra-group Cohesion
(7th term, specific policy areas)

European political groups cohesion rates on All policy areas (14.07.2009 - 17.04.2014)
| Area                              | Overall | Agriculture | Budget | Budgetary control | Civil liberties, justice & home affairs | Constitutional and inter-institutional affairs | Culture & education | Development | Economic & monetary affairs | Employment & social affairs | Environment & public health | Fisheries | Foreign & security policy | Gender equality | Industry, research & energy | Internal market & consumer protection | Internal regulations of the EP | International trade | Legal affairs | Petitions | Regional development | Transport & tourism |
|----------------------------------|---------|-------------|--------|------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------|------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|-------------|-----------|------------------------|--------------------------|
|                                  | 79.37%  | 94.68%      | 91.54% | 88.40%           | 92.63%                                | 86.65%                                        | 48.59%                                      |                 |            | 72.58%                   | 92.92%                     | 90.45%                     | 86.82%               | 95.46%                   | 80.15%               | 52.17%                  | 82.94%                   | 96.60%                     | 94.29%               | 91.77%   | 96.40% | 96.22%               | 89.74%                     | 90.34%                  | 93.15%               | 82.34%   | 42.56%   |
Intra-group Cohesion
(8th term, specific policy areas)

European political groups cohesion rates on All policy areas (14.07.2009 - 17.04.2014)
3. Inter-group Coalition

Groups’ footprint on AGRI dossiers

Percent of votes won by each of the political groups
Agriculture (14.07.2009 - 13.06.2013)

Groups’ footprint on LIBE dossiers

Percent of votes won by each of the political groups
Civil liberties, justice & home affairs (14.07.2009 - 13.06.2013)
Inter-group Coalition

Groups’ footprint on ECON dossiers

Percent of votes won by each of the political groups

Groups’ footprint on ENVI dossiers

Percent of votes won by each of the political groups
Inter-group Coalition

Groups’ footprint on IMCO dossiers

Percent of votes won by each of the political groups
Internal market & consumer protection (14.07.2009 - 13.06.2013)

Groups’ footprint on FEMM dossiers

Percent of votes won by each of the political groups
Gender equality (14.07.2009 - 13.06.2013)
Who wins? Who loses?

Percent of votes won by each of the political groups
All policy areas (14.07.2009 - 13.06.2013)

- GUE-NGL
- Greens/EFA
- S&D
- ALDE/ADLE
- EPP
- ECR
- EFD

VoteWatch
Europe

Highcharts.com
Comparing EE09 and EE14

**Turnout**

- **EE09**
  - EPP: 274 (35.77%)
  - S&D: 196 (25.59%)
  - ALDE: 83 (10.83%)
  - Greens/EFA: 57 (7.44%)
  - ECR: 57 (7.44%)
  - GUE/NGL: 35 (4.57%)
  - EFD: 31 (4.05%)
  - NI: 33 (4.31%)
  - Others: 28 (3.65%)

- **EE14**
  - EPP: 221 (29.43%)
  - S&D: 191 (25.43%)
  - ECR: 70 (9.32%)
  - ALDE: 67 (8.92%)
  - Greens/EFA: 52 (6.92%)
  - GUE/NGL: 50 (6.66%)
  - EFD: 48 (6.39%)
  - NI: 43 (5.73%)
  - Others: 9 (1.20%)

**Turnout**

- **EE09**
  - 766
  - 43%

- **EE14**
  - 751
  - 43.09%

*Final results*

*Estimation 25/05/2014 23:58 CEST*
# Plenary: possible coalitions

## pro-european comfort zone

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>XL grand coalition</th>
<th>grand coalition</th>
<th>centre left coalition</th>
<th>centre right coalition I</th>
<th>centre right coalition II</th>
<th>centre right coalition III</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EPP</td>
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<td>219</td>
<td></td>
<td>219</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>219</td>
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<tr>
<td>S&amp;D</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>190</td>
<td></td>
<td>72</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECR</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALDE</td>
<td>69</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>69</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GUE/NGL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>52</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greens/EFA</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EFDD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>47</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENF</td>
<td></td>
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<td>36</td>
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<td>NI</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>478</strong></td>
<td><strong>409</strong></td>
<td><strong>361</strong></td>
<td><strong>360</strong></td>
<td><strong>338</strong></td>
<td><strong>390</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>%</strong></td>
<td><strong>63.65%</strong></td>
<td><strong>54.46%</strong></td>
<td><strong>48.07%</strong></td>
<td><strong>47.94%</strong></td>
<td><strong>45.00%</strong></td>
<td><strong>52.00%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FEMM Distribution of seats / 8th term

- **EPP** (Group of the European People’s Party (Christian Democrats))
  - 10 seats, 28.57%
- **S&D** (Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament)
  - 9 seats, 25.71%
- **ECR** (European Conservatives and Reformists)
  - 3 seats, 8.57%
- **ALDE** (Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe)
  - 3 seats, 8.57%
- **GUE/NGL** (European United Left/Nordic Green Left)
  - 3 seats, 8.57%
- **Greens/EFA** (The Greens/European Free Alliance)
  - 3 seats, 8.57%
- **EFDD** (Europe of freedom and democracy Group)
  - 2 seats, 5.71%
- **ENF** (Europe of Nations and Freedom Group)
  - 1 seat, 2.85%
- **NI** (Non-attached Members – Members not belonging to any political group)
  - 1 seat, 2.85%
### FEMM: possible coalitions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>XL grand coalition</th>
<th>grand coalition</th>
<th>centre left coalition</th>
<th>centre right coalition</th>
<th>centre right coalition (opt. II)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EPP</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S&amp;D</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECR</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALDE</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GUE/NGL</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greens/EFA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EFDD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENF</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NI</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>22</strong></td>
<td><strong>19</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>18</strong></td>
<td><strong>16</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>%</strong></td>
<td><strong>62.90%</strong></td>
<td><strong>54.30%</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>51.43%</strong></td>
<td><strong>45.71%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• EPP group has won more votes (voting 'yes' if the majority of the Parliament voted 'yes', or 'no' if the majority voted 'no') than any other political group (92.5%).

• EPP is closely followed by the ALDE group (90%) and then by the S&D group (85.8%).

• In this respect, the situation has not changed much after the May 2014 elections.

Source: Votewatch
Group’s footprint in plenary 2009-2014

Group’s footprint in FEMM 2009-2014
Group’s footprint in plenary
2014-2016

Percent of votes won by each of the political groups
All policy areas (01.07.2014 - 21.01.2016)

Group’s footprint in FEMM
2014-2016

Percent of votes won by each of the political groups
Gender equality (01.07.2014 - 21.01.2016)
IV. Some examples
The proposed college of 28 commissioners put forward by Jean-Claude Juncker, the president-elect of the European Commission, was approved on 22 October by the European Parliament. 423 MEPs voted to approve the college, 209 voted against, and 67 abstained.
Intra-group Cohesion
(8th term, election of the Commission 22/10/2014)
Some examples

- 7th term: Resolution on equality between women and men 2012 (11 March 2014)

- 8th term: Resolution on progress between women and men in the European Union in 2013 (10 March 2015)

- 8th term: Resolution on maternity leave (20 May 2015)

- 8th term: Resolution on EU strategy for equality between women and men post 2015 (20 June 2015)
Intra-group Cohesion (7th term, resolution on equality between women and men 2012-11 March 2014)
Equality report 2013

Resolution A8 – 016/2015

698
441
205
52
Intra-group Cohesion (8th term, resolution on progress between women and men in the European Union in 2013, 10 March 2015)
Maternity leave

Resolution B8-0453/2015

赞成 677

反对 419

弃权 097

未发表 161
Intra-group Cohesion (8th term, resolution on maternity leave 20 May 2015)
Post 2015 strategy

Resolution

A8 – 016/2015

703

341

281

81
Intra-group Cohesion (8th term, resolution on EU strategy for equality between women and men post 2015, 20 June 2015)
V. Conclusions:

• The recently by EIGE published Gender Equality Index states “With an overall score of 52.9 out of 100, the EU remains only halfway towards equality. Progress needs to increase its pace if the EU is to fulfil its ambitions and meet the Europe 2020 targets.”

• However, from a political point of view (Number of seats of each of the political groups, Intra-group Cohesion, Inter-groups Coalition) “to increase the pace of progress” is less evident.
Thank you very much for your attention.