

**Report on the 39th meeting of the Advisory Committee
on equal opportunities for women and men - 23 May 2012**

On 23 May 2012 the Advisory Committee on equal opportunities for women and men held its 39th meeting. This Advisory Committee assists the Commission in formulating and implementing EU activities aimed at the promotion of equal opportunities for women and men and fosters ongoing exchanges of experiences between Member States and the various parties involved. It comprises Member State representatives, social partners at EU level and the EWL. EIGE was also represented at the meeting as well as the Council of Europe.

Points on the agenda of the meeting:

1. Presentation of ENEGE's 'crisis report'

Presentation of a report on the impact of the economic crisis on the situation of women and men and on gender equality policies by the General Coordinator of the European Network of Experts in Gender Equality.

2. Presentation on legal and policy developments in the area of gender equality

The Director of JUST's Directorate D and the Gender Equality Head of Unit updated the Committee on legal and policy developments in the area of gender equality. Legal developments included the state-of-play of the negotiations on the proposed draft directive on improved maternity leave and progress on the legislative initiatives aiming at protecting victims of crime. On the policy aspects of gender equality the Committee was updated on the recent developments in the area of employment policy, women in economic decision-making, annual GE report and gender pay gap. Participants were also informed on the 2012 Programme of exchange of good practices on gender equality, the study on the role of men and on future expected gender-equality publications. The audience was finally debriefed on this year's CSW and on the latest developments in the preparation of the new Rights and Citizenship Programme.

3. Information from current and future Presidencies

The Danish member informed the Advisory Committee on the past/remaining planned events and activities in the area of gender equality.

The Cypriot and Irish members updated the Advisory Committee on the planned activities in the area of gender equality of their respective Presidencies.

4. Preparation of opinions

The Advisory Committee members and observers started by discussing the draft opinion on the gender dimension of the 2014-2020 cohesion policy that was prepared by the corresponding Working Group. Mr M. Lefebvre, Policy Officer; Unit E.1, European Social Fund Policy and Legislation of DG Employment gave a presentation on the context of the opinion and briefly explained the current state-of-play of the negotiations within the Council and the EP. The Chair of the Working Group (IE) together with another colleague from the Irish Equality Authority went on by presenting the main recommendations included in the draft opinion. A revised draft including the comments of all AC members and observers (that have now until the 8th of June to post their formal comments and recommendations) will be circulated by end of June for subsequent adoption by written procedure.

The Advisory Committee members and observers then discussed the draft opinion on a possible EU awareness-raising campaign on violence against women that was prepared by its Working Group. Ms A. Galand, Policy Officer of DG JUST's Gender Equality Unit gave a short presentation on the context of the opinion and briefly explained the questions the mandate addresses. The Chair of the Working Group from the Portuguese Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality could not be present. On her behalf, Ms. Tanja Olsson Blandy presented the main recommendations included in the draft opinion. A revised draft including the comments of all AC members and observers (that have now until the 8th of June to post their formal comments) will be circulated by end of June for subsequent adoption by written procedure.