

Report on the meeting of the Advisory Committee on equal opportunities for women and men - 22 May 2014

The Advisory Committee on equal opportunities for women and men held its 1st meeting of the year on 22 May 2014. The 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 organized at EU level and the EWL. EIGE, UN Women and the Council of Europe have also participated in the meeting. Points on the agenda of the meeting included:

1. Recent developments in the area of gender equality: COM/DG JUST updated the Committee on recent developments in the area of gender equality: the Annual gender equality progress report adopted on April 2014 and the EU-2020 recent developments (including on the public consultation on the review of the Europe 2020 strategy). Equal pay, women in economic decision-making and Violence against women were also debated. Participants were informed on the 2014 programme of exchange of good practices, on the 2014 UN Commission on the Status of Women's outcomes as well as on the state-of-play of gender equality calls for proposals.

2. Information from current and future Presidencies: The Greek member informed the Advisory Committee on the past/remaining planned events and activities in the area of gender equality. EL Pres work results with two Council Conclusions in June, one on Women in Economy (EPSCO) and one on Violence Against Women (JHA).

The Italian and Latvian members updated the Advisory Committee on the planned activities in the area of gender equality of their respective Presidencies. The IT Pres will organise a High Level EU Pres conference on Beijing Platform Action Plan +20 in November 2014. There will an informal meeting of Equality Ministers on 24 October in Rome. The LV Pres will focus its event in June 2015 on the next Gender Equality Index produced by EIGE.

3. Preparation of opinions : The Advisory Committee decided to prepare an ad hoc Opinion to feed in to the review of the Europe 2020 strategy. The Advisory Committee was then introduced to the mandate of the opinion on "Gender Equality in the European Union in the 21st century: remaining challenges and priorities" that is to be prepared by the Working Group. JUST D2 gave a presentation on the context of the opinion and explained the individual questions the mandate addresses: identification of current challenges, options for solutions, future priorities to the gender equality

policy, instruments to be used and governance models.

JUST D2 also introduced the Committee to the "How to improve quantitative data collection at national/European level on Violence against Women?" opinion that is currently being prepared by the Working Group. The Chair of the WG from the Polish Government Office for Equal Treatment presented a first outline of WG recommendations that related to policy, legislative and practical aspects on data collection relating Violence against Women.

4. Presentation of report 'Gender Segregation in European Labour Markets' by European Network of Experts on Gender Equality (ENEGE): The 'Gender Segregation in European Labour Markets' study was presented by a member of the European Network of Experts on GE. The study has resulted with a statistical tool to analyse the occupational gender segregation in the EU, based on the existing data from the Labour Market Surveys. This will help to understand the gender segregation in the labour market and its causes in order to make the right policy choices. The audience was very interested to hear about the investigated links between occupational segregation and the gender pay gap. The Report on the study is being finalised and the Commission will receive it soon; it will be distributed to the Advisory Committee as soon as it is published.