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**FEMM**



Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

## FEMM Newsletter

### Issue 2 – 2026

#### FEMM Committee Meeting

Tuesday 24 March 2026

09.00–12.30 and 14.30–18.30

Brussels, room: Antall 6Q2

[Meeting documents](#)

[Webstreaming](#)

Dear readers,

Welcome to the FEMM newsletter that will give you an overview of the main topics of our committee meeting on 24 March. We will consider the draft opinions on European Social Fund and AgoraEU, as well as hear briefings by the Policy Department on four sectoral MFF proposals. In cooperation with the EMPL Committee we will vote on an INI report on addressing the gender care gap. EIGE and FRA will present to us the findings of the recent survey on gender-based violence, while in the afternoon we will hold together with the SANT committee a hearing on menopause care in the EU.

It will be a packed and interesting day! For those who cannot join us, you can of course follow the meeting [online](#)

*Lina Gálvez*

*Chair of the FEMM Committee*



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# Highlights

## FEMM-SANT joint public hearing on menopause care in the EU



Menopause has a profound impact on millions of women across Europe, disrupting their health, family life, and careers, while also carrying wider societal implications. In this context, the FEMM and SANT Committees organise a joint public hearing on “Menopause Care in the EU,” which will take place on March 24.

The hearing will analyse how European-level initiatives could address stigma and misinformation, how the EU could support menopause care initiatives and invest in menopause research, and how to coordinate policy across the EU. Panellists will focus on the impact of gynaecological care practices and stigmatisation, and will also discuss the economic considerations of the subject.

After welcoming remarks from the Vice Chair of the **Public Health Committee, Ms Romana Jerković**, and the Chair of the **FEMM Committee, Ms Lina Gálvez**, the panel discussion will be opened and there will be an opportunity for MEPs to ask questions and receive answers.

The panel will be formed of the following guest speakers:

- **Dr. Petra Stute**, Professor and President of the European Menopause and Andropause Society (EMAS) (Germany)
- **Anna Samsel**, Psychologist, menopause expert, group trainer and leader of the “Menopause without Taboo” project at the Kulczyk Foundation (Poland)
- **Dr. Ludwig Kiesel**, MD PhD from the Department of Gynaecology and Obstetrics at the University of Münster, Senior Professor at the Department of Gynaecology, University Hospital Münster (Germany)
- **Dr. Gabriella Conti**, Professor of Economics in the Department of Economics at University College London, and Professor of Economics at University College London’s Social Research Institute (UK)

[More information on the event](#)

[Follow the hearing online](#)

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## Presentation of four policy department briefings on MFF sectoral proposals

The FEMM Committee asked for external briefings which would cover all four FEMM opinions related to the sectoral proposals on the MFF 2028–2034. These briefings will be presented during the committee meeting on 24 March.

These include four briefings on the FEMM opinions on

- Establishing the European Social Fund for the period from 2028 to 2034
- Establishing the 'AgoraEU' programme for the period 2028–2034
- Establishing a budget expenditure tracking and performance framework and other horizontal rules for the Union programmes and activities
- Establishing Global Europe.

## The EU gender-based violence survey: presentation by EIGE and FRA

The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) will present the latest results from the EU gender-based violence survey to the FEMM committee. The survey marks a significant step forward in understanding and addressing gender-based violence (GBV) across the European Union.

Building upon FRA's landmark 2014 report, the updated edition expands its scope to include emerging and evolving forms of abuse, such as cyber harassment and technology-facilitated abuse (TFA), while strengthening methodological rigor across Member States. Its release comes at a pivotal moment, as EU countries are developing measures to implement the EU Violence Against Women Directive, due for completion by June 2027.

Key findings show that:

- One in three women in the EU-27 (30.7 %) have experienced physical violence or threats and/or sexual violence over their lifetime, by any perpetrator.
- Among women in the EU-27, 13.5 % have experienced physical violence and/or have been threatened with physical violence (but not sexual), and 17.2 % have experienced sexual violence (including rape and other unwanted sexual acts).
- Of the women who have experienced physical violence or threats and/or sexual violence in their lifetime, 20.5 % have contacted a healthcare service or social service provider as a result of the incident, and 13.9 % have reported the incident to the police.

## Votes

### **Advancing towards a care society: addressing the gender care gap**

The FEMM Committee will vote jointly with the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs on the draft own-initiative report on advancing towards a care society: addressing the gender care gap.

The demand for care in the European Union is growing rapidly due to demographic change, labour market pressures and social transformations. Care provision remains under-recognised, under-resourced and unequally distributed, with women still bearing a disproportionate share of both paid and unpaid care responsibilities.

Building on the European Care Strategy, the draft report by co-rapporteurs Rosa Estaràs Ferragut and Eleonora Meleti proposes measures to reduce the gender care gap and to promote structural changes, calling for the full implementation and further careful monitoring, enforcement and evaluation of the Work-Life Balance Directive.

Procedure: [2025/2039\(INI\)](#)

## Work in progress

### **European Social Fund 2028–2034 – consideration of draft opinion**

The European Social Fund (ESF), included in the EU's 2028–2034 long-term budget, complements the objectives of the National and Regional Partnership Plans (NRP) as the main financial instrument to implement the European Pillar of Social Rights, supporting quality employment, skills and social inclusion across all Member States.

The FEMM Committee is preparing an opinion to this proposal, with rapporteur for opinion Alessandra Moretti. The draft opinion, which will be presented in committee on 24 March,

emphasises the role of the ESF in addressing gender-specific barriers to labour market participation, combating gender segregation in education, training, skills development, and retraining opportunities for women in the labour market.

Procedure: [2025/0239\(COD\)](#)

## AgoraEU programme 2028-2034 – consideration of draft opinion

AgoraEU is one of 16 funding programmes under the MFF 2028-2034. It should succeed the former Creative Europe Programme and the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) Programme, thus combining the two predecessor programmes in one.

The FEMM Committee is preparing an opinion to this proposal, with rapporteur for opinion Mélissa Camara. The draft opinion will be discussed during the committee meeting on 24 March.

Procedure: [2025/0550\(COD\)](#)

## Next committee meetings

- 14 April 2026, Brussels

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## Useful links

- [FEMM website](#)
- [Webstreaming of committee meetings](#)
- [Press releases](#)

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