

**Mikulás Franciska főosztályvezető asszony felszólalása a Nemek Közötti Egyenlőség
Európai Intézete által megrendezett „Joining efforts towards Gender Equality in the EU
2010 – 2015” című szemináriumra**

Ladies and Gentlemen!

It is a great pleasure for me to intervene on this seminar if it is prevented from a distance on behalf of the forthcoming Hungarian Presidency. It's a pleasure on the one hand, because this event is organized by the European Institute for Gender Equality. Thank for the invitation to the Head and colleagues of the Institute and I hope for that it is just the beginning of a long-term and fruitful cooperation. On the other hand it is also a pleasure, because I think that the topic of the seminar is excellent as it stresses the importance of joint action.

We've been talking about gender equality at national, EU and global level for ages. Nevertheless, we can see that there is full legal equality at the fortunate side of the world, such as the European Union Member States but for the de facto equality many elements are missing. The de facto equality is can not be achieved by separated, single measures without synergy

This fact is also appears as an important element of the excellent work of the Belgian Presidency of the Council dealing with gender pay gap draft conclusions, which draws attention to the complex causes of the pay gap which can only be solved by complex measures.

I think we all can strengthen this in our own experiences and not only in the context of gender pay gap. I am sure that there is not an EU country now, where would not have been many successful initiatives which will improve the situation of women, promoting equality between women and men. There is no country as well, where equality in all spheres of life would have been achieved. This shows that the isolated measures alone are not effective. We can also often experience that even the national level measures may be too few on their own. In some cases actions are necessary at EU level.

The European Commission aims to promote the joint and coordinated actions, which after the Roadmap for the 2006-2010 period, published the Strategy for equality between women and

men 2010-2015 this year. The Strategy also reaffirms the importance of combined effect of individual measures. I hope that after the Roadmap, which was highly appreciated by Hungary, the impact of Strategy will be even stronger.

During first half of 2011 the Hungarian Presidency attempts to further strengthen the common and coordinated actions.. Our efforts will strengthen the commitment of the Member States achieving gender equality in accordance with the Commission's Strategy and the European Pact for Gender Equality adopted in 2006. To this end, supported by the Member States and Trio Presidency partners, we wish to renew the European Pact for Gender Equality, of course with the necessary adjustments and based on the experience since the time of the 2006 Pact. Of course many factors of this Pact are still relevant. I point out one of them: the promotion of the balance between family, private life and work, which is also an important priority for the Hungarian Presidency, having regard to its demographic dimension as well. We believe it that the reconciliation of the family, private life and work tasks is very important to achieve equality between women and men and this means one of the pillars of the way out the demographic crisis.

We hope that the strengthening of the Pact, which is a symbol of the political commitment, would base on broad consensus and it must express the joint and common purpose of all Member States, EU institutions and EU citizens. It is the intention of the need for real equality between women and men, which represents a positive message to the whole society.

Thank you for your attention.