

Women on Boards: Commission proposes 40% objective

The **European Commission** has taken action to break the glass ceiling that continues to bar female talent from top positions in Europe's biggest companies. The Commission has proposed legislation with the aim of attaining a **40% objective** of the under-represented sex in non-executive board-member positions in publicly listed companies, with the exception of small and medium enterprises. Currently, boards are dominated by one gender: 85% of non-executive board members and 91.1% of executive board members are men, while women make up 15% and 8.9% respectively.

Despite an intense public debate and some voluntary initiatives at national and European level, the situation has not changed significantly in recent years: an incremental average increase of the number of women on boards of just 0.6 percentage points per year has been recorded since 2003.

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