

Working towards better gender balance on the boards of EU agencies



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EU agencies are an important part of the European Union that work on a variety of matters affecting the daily lives of both women and men — such as food safety, transport, gender equality and many more.

Each agency is governed by a management board, responsible for ensuring that the agency fulfils its mandate. Board members are usually representatives of the Member States, European Commission and European Parliament, or other agencies.

Despite the EU's commitment to gender equality in decision-making, the management boards of EU agencies are seriously lacking in gender balance. Only one in three boards are chaired by a woman, and when it comes to members, the ratio of women to men is even lower.

Members of management boards are nominated primarily by Member States, followed by the European Commission and the European Parliament. In 2015, out of the management board members nominated by the Member States, only 30% were women. The European Commission and the European Parliament nominated 26% and 40% women, respectively.

Gender Equality Glossary and Thesaurus

Party threshold

In achieving the goal of equal participation of women and men, a 30% participation rate is generally considered to be the party objective. A minimum participation rate of 40% for both women and men is considered by the Council of Europe to be the party threshold.

EIGE / Magnolia by MULTIMEDIA



Figure 1 – Women nominated/appointed to boards by Member States



Year	Percentage of women
07	15
08	18
09	20
10	22
11	25
12	28
13	30
14	32
15	35

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