



Finland's Presidency  
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European Union



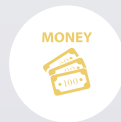
European  
Commission



# GENDER EQUALITY INDEX CONFERENCE

2019

15 October • Brussels



## Gender Equality Index Conference 2019

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**Meeting venue:** Justus Lipsius building, Rue de la Loi 175, 1048 Brussels

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**Moderators:**

- **Mira Banerjee**, Head of Knowledge Management and Communications, EIGE
- **Vincent-Immanuel Herr**, Author, moderator and activist, Herr & Speer

**08:00 – 09:00****Registration****09:00 – 09:05****Welcome**

- **Inga Rosinska**, Director for Information and Outreach, Directorate-General Communication and Information, General Secretariat of the Council

**09:05 – 09:30****Opening address**

- **Virginija Langbakk**, Director, EIGE
- **Dimitrios Papadimoulis**, Vice President, European Parliament

**09:30 – 11:00****SESSION 1: Is gender equality in the EU still moving at a snail's pace?**

This session will reveal the results of the Gender Equality Index 2019. We will see how far the EU and its Member States have progressed towards achieving gender equality since 2005.

**Presentation by: Blandine Mollard, Research Officer, EIGE**

**Panel:**

- **Evelyn Regner**, Chair of the Women's Rights and Gender Equality Committee (FEMM), European Parliament
- **Tiina Astola**, Director-General, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers, European Commission
- **Joanna Maycock**, Secretary General, European Women's Lobby
- **Carina Autengruber** President, European Youth Forum

**11:00 – 11:30****Coffee break****11:30 – 13:00****SESSION 2: Does public infrastructure support work-life balance?**

Access to infrastructure, such as health clinics, childcare, schools and public transport is crucial for work-life balance but impacts women and men differently. This session will shed light on women's and men's access and use of public services and the dimensions (e.g. quality, affordability, accessibility) that are the most conducive for work-life balance for different groups of women and men.

**Presentation by: Jolanta Reingarde, Programme Coordinator, Research and Statistics, EIGE**

**Panel:**

- **Yoomi Renström**, Member of the European Committee of the Regions and Mayor of Ovanåker, Sweden
- **Sylvain Renouvel**, Director, Federation of European Social Employers
- **Carmen Gheorghe**, President, E-Romnja
- **Eva Kail**, Expert in urban gender planning, City of Vienna

**13:00 – 14:15**

**Lunch**

**Press conference**

**14:15 – 15:30**

**SESSION 3: Parental leave: can everyone benefit?**

Parental leave helps parents balance their caring duties with work life, but who is eligible? Which groups of women and men find themselves excluded from this entitlement and on which basis (age, family characteristics, employment, citizenship)? How can employers and governments encourage more men to take up parental leave?

**Presentation by: Marre Karu, Researcher - Gender Equality, EIGE**

**Panel:**

- **Karin Strandås**, State Secretary to the Minister for Gender Equality, Sweden
- **Björn Sieverding**, Board Member, NELFA - Network of European LGBTIQ\* Families Associations (NELFA)
- **Annemie Drieskens**, President, COFACE Families Europe
- **Koen Dedoncker**, MenEngage

**15:30 – 16:45**

**SESSION 4: Flexible work: helping or hindering gender equality?**

Are flexible working arrangements the answer to all our problems when it comes to work-life balance? Or do they simply encourage employees to work longer hours from home? How much flexibility can businesses allow their staff? In this session, we will discuss flexible working in the context of the European Commission's Work-Life Balance Directive, which puts forward the right to request flexible working arrangements for caring purposes.

**Presentation by: Davide Barbieri, Statistics Officer, EIGE**

**Panel:**

- **Philippe Seidel**, Policy and European Parliament Liaison Officer, AGE Platform Europe
- **Juliane Bir**, Head of Trade Union Policy, European Trade Union Confederation
- **Rebekah Smith**, Deputy Director, Social Affairs Department, Business Europe
- **Elke Heitmueller**, Head of Diversity Management, Volkswagen AG

**16:45 – 17:00**

**Closing remarks**

- **Virginija Langbakk**, Director, EIGE
- **Thomas Blomqvist**, Minister for Nordic cooperation and Equality, Finland
- **Nikolina Brnjac**, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Croatia

More information:

 <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-equality-index>


 [www.twitter.com/eurogender](http://www.twitter.com/eurogender)

 [www.facebook.com/eige.europa.eu](http://www.facebook.com/eige.europa.eu)

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