Empowering women and girls in media and ICT: key for the future

An Interparliamentary Committee Meeting celebrating International Women’s Day 2018 took place on 8 March in the European Parliament in Brussels. This conference brought together 22 Parliamentarians from 17 Member States and 2 Parliamentarians from Norway. 20 Members of the European Parliament joined their colleagues from National Parliaments.

On 8 March 2018, the FEMM Committee, in collaboration with the LDU Unit of the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments, organized an Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on "Empowering women and girls in media and ICTs: key for the future".
The opening speeches were held by Ms Vilija Blinkevičiūtė, Chair of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM) and Ms Věra Jourová, European Commissioner for Justice, Consumer and Gender Equality. This was followed by two speeches by two exceptional artists. The first artist taking the floor was Ms Sarah Gavron, the British film director of "Les suffragettes". The second artist was Ms Pilar Jurado, singer and founder of Madwomen Festival, who enchanted the public with her amazing Rossini interpretation.

Three panels followed the speeches: women shaping media, empowering women and girls through digital inclusion and women's movements and advancing equality in the digital age. The debates gave the possibility to Parliamentarians from the Member States and Norway to share their best national practices and experiences with MEPs.

The closing remarks were held by Mr Dimitros Papadimoulis, Vice-President of the European Parliament and Ms Mary Honeyball, Vice-Chair of the FEMM Committee.

A new element of this interparliamentary meeting was the sli.do #IWD2018 platform which allowed the involvement of the public via questions and answers simultaneously taking place to the event.

The excellent cooperation between the Legislative Dialogue Unit (DG PRES) and the FEMM Committee (DG IPOL) in the organization of the event could be considered as a best practice of cooperation between DGs.

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