



THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG



Permanent Mission
of the Republic of Poland
to the United Nations
in New York

INVITATION

Women's economic independence: a question of right and a pre-requisite for social and economic progress. The EU experience

Side event organized by the EU with Latvia, Luxembourg, Poland

on the occasion of the 59th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

Tuesday, 10th March 2014, 15.00 - 16.15

Venue: Conference Room 11

Speakers:

Ms Lydia Mutsch, Minister for equal opportunities, Luxembourg

Ms Małgorzata Fuszara, Government Plenipotentiary for Equal Treatment, Poland

Mr Reinis Uzulnieks, Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Welfare, Latvia

Ms Joanna Maycock, General-Secretary of the European Women's Lobby

Closing remarks: Mr Stavros Lambrinidis, EU Special Representative for Human Rights

Moderated by Ms Salla Saastamoinen, Director for Equality, European Commission, EU

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Background:

Women's economic empowerment and women's economic independence are at the core of the concept of gender equality.

The possibility for women to participate and progress in the labour market in equal terms with men is first of all a **right**. In this respect, the EU has a tradition of equal treatment legislation in the labour market and has developed policies and funding to support this principle, internally but also in its development cooperation policies, through a strong focus on policies to empower women. Women's participation in the labour market is a key condition for their economic independence throughout the life-cycle. It is key for avoiding

At the same time, guaranteeing the equal right to women and men to participate in the labour market and the economic life and eliminating all obstacles hindering this participation, has also proved to be **key for socio-economic development**. The history of the EU and its partner countries provides a good example in this respect.

The **20th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action** and the negotiation of the **post-2015 agenda**, provide good opportunities to discuss these important issues and to also put women's economic independence at the core of gender equality. This side event will thus provide an opportunity to exchange experiences on successful policies to promote women's economic empowerment and independence in the EU but also to identify remaining challenges. The EU Special Representative for Human Rights will close the side event by putting the EU experience into the global context.