



THE GOVERNMENT  
OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG



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

## ***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 59<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women***

**When: Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2014, 15.00 - 16.15**

**Venue: Conference Room 11**

### **Programme:**

- **Ms Lydia Mutsch, Minister For equal Opportunities of Luxembourg** will share with us the changes the Luxembourgish government is planning to attract more women on the labour market and to better involve men in sharing family responsibilities and the impact this will have in the national economy and society .
- **Ms Małgorzata Fuszara, Government Plenipotentiary for Equal Treatment, Poland** will share with us the progress Poland has made in the provision of childcare facilities and its impact. She will also share with us an interesting experience of participatory approach from the ground in policy and law making.
- **Mr Reinis Uzulnieks, Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Welfare, Latvia** will put the issue of economic independence into a life-cycle angle, focusing on older ages and what should be done to avoid gender pension gap.
- **Ms Joanna Maycock, General-Secretary of the European Women's Lobby** will provide the views of civil society organisations, building on the achievements made in the EU but also highlighting remaining challenges related to the current budgetary restrictions. She will also share with us the work EWL does with NGOs in EU neighbours countries to promote women's economic independence.
- **Mr Stavros Lambrinidis, EU Special Representative for Human Rights** will make concluding remarks putting the EU experience into the global context making the case for gender equality and women's economic independence as a right and socio-economic driver in the context of the UN post-2015 agenda.

- **Ms Salla Saastamoinen, director for Equality in the European Commission** will moderate the debate and will provide an overview of the main priorities and challenges of the European Commission Strategy for equality between women and men for 2015-2020.

***Followed by questions and answers***

### **Biographies:**

#### ***Lydia Mutsch, Minister for Equal Opportunities, Luxembourg***

*Minister Mutsch is minister of Health and for Equal opportunities since December 2013. She has a long-standing career as politician and as member of the Parliament where she assumed among others the role of chairwoman of the Committee for Health and Social Security from 2004 to 2013 and the role of vice-president from 2009 to 2013, Lydia Mutsch of Parliament. She was also a member of the Benelux Parliament from 1989 to 2009, as well as the Parliamentary Assemblies of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and the Council of Europe until 2013.*

#### ***Stavros Lambrinidis EU Special Representative for Human Rights.***

*Stavros Lambrinidis is the EU Special Representative for Human Rights since September 2012. In 2011, he was Minister for Foreign Affairs of Greece. Between 2004 and 2011 he was Member of the European Parliament with the Greek Social Democratic Party (PASOK) and served as Head of the PASOK Delegation to the EP. In July 2009 he was elected Vice-President of the European Parliament, in charge of the Bureau's International Relations and the Parliament's Communications Policy. He was also responsible for the Bureau's Transatlantic Relations and for relations with International Organizations. Between 2004 and 2009 he was Vice-President of the Parliament's Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee.*

#### ***Małgorzata Fuszara, Government Plenipotentiary for Equal Treatment, Poland***

*Małgorzata Fuszara is the Polish Government's Plenipotentiary for Equal Treatment and professor in humanities. She is a lawyer and sociologist specialized in issues connected with sociology of politics, gender studies, sociology of ethnic, cultural and social minorities, as well as sociology of law. She used to be the director of the Centre for Social and Legal Research into the Situation of Women at the Institute of Applied Social Sciences of the University of Warsaw. She is a co-originator of the first Postgraduate Studies in Social and Cultural Identity of Gender - Gender Studies - in Central and Eastern Europe. In 2008 she joined the University of Warsaw's Rector Committee for Preventing Discrimination.*

#### ***Reinis Uzulnieks, Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Welfare, Republic of Latvia***

*Mr Uzulnieks is the Parliamentary Secretary responsible for the communication between the Ministry and The Parliament since 2014. He also participates in the consideration of the legislative acts proceeded in the Parliament that are connected to employment, social security, children and family rights as well as equal rights for people with disabilities and gender equality. Mr Uzulnieks started his political career as the leader of the Youth Department of The Latvian Farmers' Union, one of the biggest political parties in Latvia, and is still leading it.*

**Ms Joanna Maycock, General-Secretary of the European Women's Lobby (EWL)**

*Joanna is the Secretary-General of the European Women's Lobby, represents over 2500 women's organisations throughout the European Union working towards a feminist Europe. The EWL campaigns for an end to violence against women; for parity between women and men in decision-making and for women's economic independence. It's recent publication "Women's Economic Independence in Times of Austerity" explores the negative impact of austerity measures in the EU on women. Previously she worked for ActionAid for more than ten years based out of the Europe Office of ActionAid in Brussels. Her most recent role was as Director for Country Coordination for ActionAid, leading the engagement of ActionAid International with its members globally. Joanna was also the President of CONCORD (2012-2014), the European Confederation of Development NGOs where she engaged in bringing an increased focus on women's rights in programmes and campaigns.*

**Salla Saastamoinen, Director for Equality in the European Commission**

*Salla Saastamoinen is the Director for Equality in Directorate General Justice and Consumers, European Commission, since 2014. The Directorate seeks to coordinate and promote policy developments to combat discrimination on grounds of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, and to coordinate policy developments in respect of the Roma. The Directorate is also responsible for the relationship to the European Institute for Gender Equality. Salla Saastamoinen was heading the Unit Fundamental rights and rights of the child (2013-14) and the Civil Justice Policy Unit in Directorate General Justice (2007-2013) before taking over her current post. She is a lawyer from the University of Helsinki, Finland.*