



Brussels, 21 March 2018

## Women's European Council

### Conclusions

Article 8 TFEU states: "In all its activities, the Union shall aim to eliminate inequalities, and to promote equality, between men and women."

Yet, current figures on the gender gap across Europe show limited and slow progress towards gender equality, which is still far from being achieved.

We believe that gender inequality prevents the EU from attaining fully inclusive growth and social cohesion. At political level, change has been slow; women are significantly under-represented in EU decision-making, and more needs to be done to empower and advance women.

We, female Vice-Presidents of the European Parliament, Commissioners and representatives of the Council of the EU, stress the need for the EU to engage in a meaningful way regarding gender mainstreaming policies, legislation and actions to bring about tangible progress towards gender equality.

We undertake to establish a Women's European Council (WEUCO) as a permanent forum for discussion and debate. WEUCO aims to set gender equality as a high priority on the EU political agenda.

WEUCO will meet regularly before European Council meetings, putting forward proposals for action.

We support the adoption of a gender-mainstreaming approach to be used when designing, implementing and assessing EU policies and programmes, with a view to measuring progress towards the objective of gender equality.

Such an approach should be underpinned by ex-ante analysis, monitoring and ex-post assessment of EU policies and legislation and, where possible, based on inter-sectorial data disaggregated by sex and indicators, gender budgeting and gender mainstreaming.

Based on this approach, we will put forward an action plan with the goal of driving the EU towards substantive democracy, sustainable growth and inclusion.

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