

Verein zur Förderung der Frauenpolitik in Deutschland e.V.  
Geschäftsstelle der BAG Brunnenstraße 128 13355 Berlin

Mrs. Vera Jourová  
Commissioner of the  
European Commission  
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200  
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## Belgien

Berlin, July 20, 2015

### EU Gender Equality Policy Strategy for Equality between Women and Men after 2015

Dear Mrs. Jourová,

Since as early as in the middle of the 1990ies, the work and orientation of the European Commission has been an essential motor for the gender equality policy of the EU member states. With a full-fledged strategy for equality between women and men for the years 2010 to 2015, it has provided an important formal framework and a central reference for the gender equality policy at EU level.

The Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft kommunaler Frauenbüros und Gleichstellungsstellen (Federal Association of Municipal Gender Equality Offices and Agencies) keeps considering the implementation of a full-fledged strategy for equality between women and men for the actions of the EU and its impact on the member states to be of utmost importance! We therefore request you, in your capacity as the Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality, to support the persistent entrenchment of such a full-fledged strategy by the European Commission.

Within the scope of the current strategy for equality between women and men, it has already been established that "equality" is one of the five values on which the Union is founded. "The Union is bound to strive for equality between women and men in all its activities." (Art. 2, 3 TEU, art. 8 TFEU). The Charter of Fundamental Rights requires this equality and prohibits sex discrimination. The implementation of this commitment is a prerequisite for a just society in Europe.

Having regard to the five leading principles of the strategy for equality between women and men, it has been a particular objective of the Europe-wide work in the field of gender equality during the past five years to achieve the promotion of gender roles free from discrimination in all spheres of life.

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Furthermore, both on the European and on the national level, there has been a continuous dialogue with the economy, management and labour, the gender equality agencies and civil society, and the public's awareness for the advantages of a gender equality policy has been raised. By way of the development of further indicators and impact assessment and evaluation processes, gender mainstreaming has become an integral part of the Commission's policy.

Despite the positive trends that can already be observed, Europe-wide statistics and surveys illustrate that the efforts to be made alone to implement a substantial gender equality policy with the aim of abolishing the continuing sex discrimination must in no case be reduced. In many spheres of life, in economy and society, gender mainstreaming has not yet been achieved!

A full-fledged, well-anchored and communicated strategy for equality between women and men remains an essential and unwaivable prerequisite also for the time after 2015 to enable the EU to act effectively in the area of gender mainstreaming - and thus also to fulfil both its own and the international commitments it has to meet.

Please assist us in our concerns. As the Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality, please urge the European Commission to continue to comply with its framing role in the field of gender equality and to provide a full-fledged strategy for the equality of women and men also after the year 2015.

Yours faithfully,

Beate Ebeling

Katrin Morof

for the federal spokeswomen