

The EWL – Action for Women in Decision Making at EU level

BPW Networking Forum, Brussels 3 May 2013



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EUROPEEN DES FEMMES

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The EWL – who we are



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The voice of European Women

- ✓ The largest umbrella organisation of women's associations in the EU
- ✓ National co-ordinations in 30 European countries and 21 Europe-wide member organisations (migrant women, women farmers, women lawyers, trade unions etc.)
- ✓ Concentrating on European-level, but activities range from local to international level
- ✓ Aim to promote women's rights and gender equality



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The main areas of work of the EWL

- ✓ Violence against Women
- ✓ Women in Decision-making /Parity Democracy
- ✓ Economic and social issues from a feminist perspective
- ✓ Immigration, Integration and Asylum



Violence against Women



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Did you know that in the EU...

- ✓ An estimated one in five women has been a victim of domestic violence
- ✓ 9 out of 10 women in prostitution would like to exit prostitution but feel unable to do so
- ✓ Only 4 to 10% of women raped in Europe try to find justice

No
TO VIOLENCE
AGAINST
WOMEN



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Our policies on Violence against women

- ✓ Advocacy on all forms of male violence against women
- ✓ Includes prostitution and trafficking in women for sexual exploitation (campaign on prostitution)
- ✓ Includes sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)
- ✓ European Observatory on VAW

**STOP
VIOLENCE
AGAINST
WOMEN**



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Employment and Social Affairs



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Did you know that in the EU...

- ✓ Women earn an average of 18% less than men
- ✓ Women are four times more likely than men to work part-time



Our Current work on economic and social issues



- ✓ Maternity leave directive blocked: EWL Focus on full-pay and protection against discrimination
- ✓ Europe 2020: has **no** specific objective to achieve gender equality
- ✓ 2012 study « *The price of austerity – the impact on women's rights and gender equality in Europe* »
- ✓ While austerity measures are hurting women, men, girls and boys across the European Union (EU), women are hit the hardest.



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Immigration, Integration and Asylum



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Did you know that in the EU...



Many women have been denied asylum despite the fact they were at risk of being subjected to a Female Genital Mutilation, forced marriage, rape or other forms of gender-based persecutions



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Ensuring that the voices of migrant women
are heard at the EU level



**EUROPEAN NETWORK
OF MIGRANT WOMEN**



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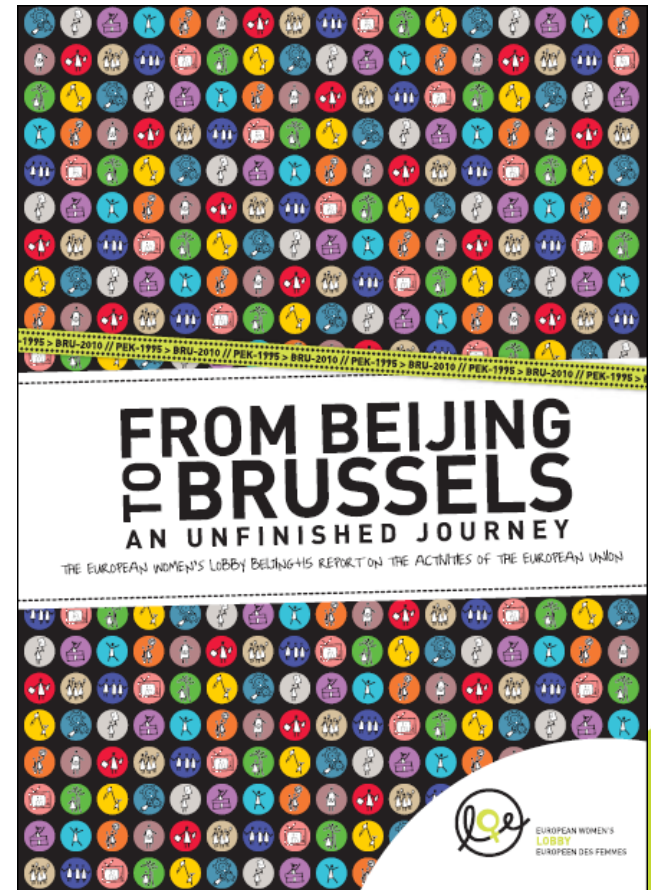
Our work at international level



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Women's rights in the international context

- ✓ UN Women and Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)
- ✓ Beijing process
- ✓ UNSC Resolutions 1325, 1820, 1888 & 1889 - violence against women in conflict



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Women and Decision-making



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Did you know that in the EU...



- ✓ 35% members of the European Parliament are women
- ✓ 22% women in national parliaments in the EU
- ✓ 26% women in national governments in the EU
- ✓ The difference in women's representation in national parliaments between the EU and the rest of the world is decreasing



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EWL 50/50 Campaign

- ✓ Mobilisation in view of the upcoming European elections in May 2014



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EWL 50/50 Campaign

- ✓ Representatives from all of the five major political groupings (EPP, PES, ALDE, VERT, GUE) are on board for the 2014 elections
- ✓ The selection process of candidates is happening NOW – so pressure is essential to ensure we push parity forward for 2014
- ✓ Ensure that gender equality /women's rights issues are integrated into the programmes of political parties



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EWL European Political Mentoring Network



- ✓ Increasing the representation of women of migrant origin of from ethnic minority at the European Parliament and tackling racist and sexist stereotypes
- ✓ From now until June 2014, 9 sitting MEPs will mentor 9 women already active in politics to help their candidacies for the European Parliament elections



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Did you know that in the EU...



- ✓ Only 3% of the presidents of the largest companies are women
- ✓ 13,7% women are on corporate boards



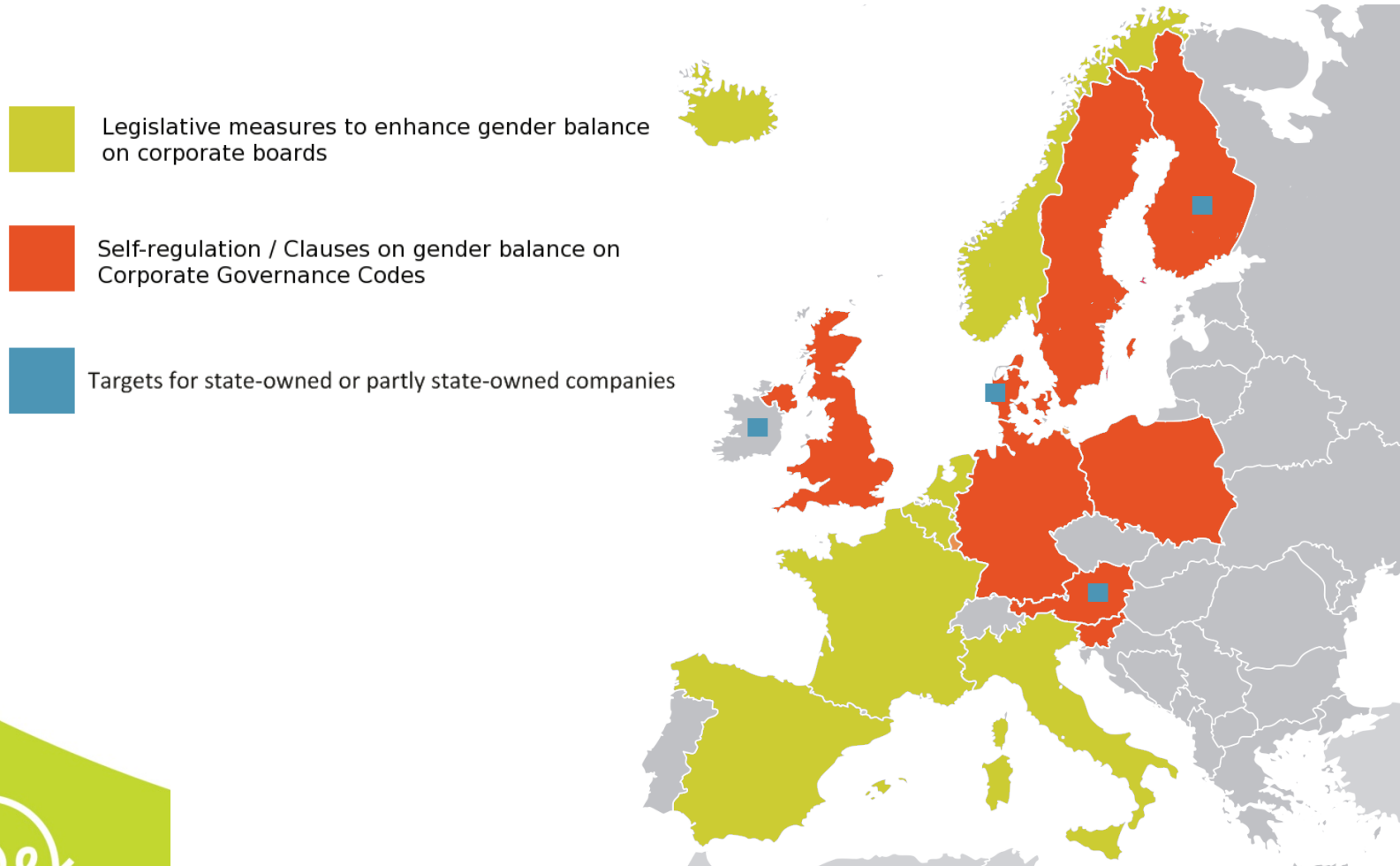
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Existing legislation – economy

- ✓ Legislation on quotas in economic decision-making exist in Norway, Iceland, Spain, France, Belgium and The Netherlands.
- ✓ EU level legislation proposed in 2012 and under consideration
- ✓ EWL supporting this draft directive and asking for strong text despite MS resistances



Overview of measures in place



Current situation and progress in selected EU Member States

COUNTRY (COMPANIES)	WOMEN ON BOARDS 2011	PROGRESS SINCE 2010 (P.P)
Austria (200)	Supervisory boards 10.3% Executive boards 4.4%	+ 1.0 - 0.9
Finland (all listed)	18%	+ 1.0
France (101)	12.7%	+ 3.2
Germany (100)	Supervisory boards 11.2% Executive boards 2.4%	+ 1.6 + 0.2
The Netherlands (97)	Supervisory boards 11.8% Executive boards 4.4%	+ 0.7 + 0.8
United Kingdom (100)	15%	+ 2.5



Women on Boards: EWL recommendations

- ✓ Intervention makes a difference in progressing towards equality on boards
- ✓ Quota legislation is most effective when endorsed by sanctions
- ✓ Quota legislation does not increase the number of female CEOs
- ✓ Awareness raising and promoting women help reaching targets



2013: Challenges ahead

- ✓ Adoption of a strong new maternity directive
- ✓ European legislation and year on violence against women
- ✓ Measures for Parity in the European Institutions and in the private sector
- ✓ Conservatism and anti-feminism
- ✓ The financial crisis, austerity measures and their impact on women



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

For more information:
www.womenlobby.org



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