

Flyer

Das gefühlte und das proklamierte Europa // Europe Sensed vs. Europe Proclaimed

A symposium of the Foundation Women in Europe in cooperation with the Heinrich Böll Foundation Hessen

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Starting point for the symposium is a look at the current financial and economic crisis. How does this global crisis affect women in their everyday life? What are its consequences for gender politics of the European Union regarding the necessity to face these new challenges?

A review of fifty years of European gender equality politics will chart our current status, will take into account reform impulses taken up by initiatives of the Commission and the European Court of Law, and will consider how the European women's movements have influenced the equal opportunities policy of the EU.

The milestone accomplishments along with failures and obstacles will be presented and assessed in a historical review.

Additionally the symposium directs its attention towards the dynamically changing gender politics within the individual member states. Which kind of friction occurs between country specific developments and the normative requirements of the EU? Are there specific dynamics between EU accession debates and the subsequent consequences of EU membership? Experts from Northern, Southern, Eastern and Western Europe as well as Turkey will discuss these issues.

Literary interventions tackle the multiple facets of Europe - sensed or proclaimed – from an entirely different perspective. Three great European women – Rossana Rossanda from Italy, Simone Veil from France and Frantiska Plaminkova from the Czech Republic - will be portrayed. Their highly influential involvement has left distinct traces on the political landscape of Europe. With a reading from her most recent book, Dutch journalist Annemieke Hendriks will take us on a journey to bi-national families in the heart of Europe, families who have already for quite some time put into practice the process of growing together as Europeans.

DATE & TIME:

Friday January 15, 2010, 4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. and

Saturday January 16, 2010, 10:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

LOCATION:

Haus am Dom, Domplatz 3, 60311 Frankfurt am Main

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PROGRAMME

Friday January 15, 2010

4:30 p.m. Arrival and Welcoming Coffee

5:00 p.m. Welcoming Address and Introduction to the Symposium

MECHTHILD VEIL, Foundation Women in Europe, Frankfurt/Main

MARGRET KRANNICH, Heinrich Böll Foundation Hessen, Frankfurt/Main

5:10 p.m. Opening Lecture

What are the effects of the current financial and economic crisis on women? What kind of new challenges for the gender policy of the European Union may arise from this?

FRIEDERIKE MAIER, Professor at the Berlin School of Economics and Law (HWR), Director of the Harriet Taylor Mill Institute for Economy and Gender Studies at the HWR Berlin

6:10 p.m. Commentary on Gender Budgeting in Light of the Economic Stimulus Packages
GÜLAY CAGLAR, Humboldt University Berlin, area of expertise "Gender and Globalisation"

Chaired by: MECHTHILD VEIL, Office for Social Policy and Gender Studies in Europa, Foundation Women in Europe

6:30 p.m. Break

6:45 p.m. 'Cultural Interventions'

Short Profile of the European Rossana Rossanda
RITA CASALE, Professor in the Educational Science Department of the University of Wuppertal, Periodical Feministische Studien

Reading by Dutch Journalist ANNEMIEKE HENDRIKS from her book "Unheile Heimat. Eine Reise zu Familien in der Mitte Europas" (2009) (IHarmed Home. A Journey to Families in the Heart of Europe)

Chaired by: MARGRET KRANNICH, Heinrich Böll Foundation Hessen

Saturday January 16, 2010

10:30 a.m. A Women's Europe? Impulses and Barriers of European Gender Policies
BRIGIT LAUBACH, Executive Director of the Heinrich Böll Foundation, Foundation Women in Europe

Chaired by: MARGRET KRANNICH

11:30 Coffee Break

11:45 a.m. Short Profile of the European Simone Veil
MECHTHILD VEIL

12:00 a.m. Dynamics of Change in Gender Policies of Individual Member States in Problematic Alignment with the EU

Ireland: PAULINE CONROY, Social Scientist, University College Dublin, former member of staff of the EU Commission and the European University Institute*

Turkey: CAGLA ÜNLÜTÜRK ULUTAS, Platform for Women's Labour and Employment (KEIG), Istanbul*

Chaired by: SUSANNE RAUSCHER, Foundation Women in Europe

1:00 p.m. Lunch Break

2:00 p.m. Short Profile of the European Frantiska Plaminkova
HANA HAVELKOVA, Assistant Professor at the Institute for Gender Studies at Charles University, Prague

2:15 p.m. Continuation of the Reports from Member States

Czech Republic: HANA HAVELKOVA, Institute for Gender Studies at Charles University, Prague
SILJA SCHULTHEIS, Journalist, Radio Prague

Spain: MERCEDES DE CASTRO RUIZ, Director of Instituto Cervantes, Frankfurt/Main.

Germany: Franziska Brantner, MEP, The Alliance '90/The Greens, Member in the Committee for Women's Rights and Gender Equality, Brussels

4:15 p.m. Closing Discussion with the Country Experts

Chaired by: MECHTILD M. JANSEN, Hessian State Office for Political Education, Foundation Women in Europe

* These contributions will be held in English language.

An attitude of fatigue towards Europe is on the rise, especially in the arena of gender and equality politics. While the EU, and in particular the European Court of Justice, during the 80s and 90s of the last century was considered a driving force for equal rights initiatives, by now things have turned quiet on this front. Evidently the EU and the EU Parliament are lacking voices, faces and a political agenda to mobilise in favour of emancipatory processes and gender equality. In face of the global economic and financial crisis, clarity of vision and political action are in increasing demand, to alleviate prevalent insecurities on the labour market, in the education sector, and in each individual's planning of life. Emancipation on a European level is a pressing issue. New challenges require new answers to be worked out.

This symposium aims at tackling the questions posed, by leveraging the areas of scholarship, politics and culture. Is there in fact a stand-still in EU gender politics?
Or is there only a discrepancy in perception caused by non-synchronous developments in the individual member states, calling for a new type of gender politics?