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PES Women Call for a feminist Europe 2019-2024

Following the strong PES engagement and campaign for a feminist Europe, PES Women is calling on European decision-makers to put gender equality into practice during the 2019-2024 mandate.

The European institutions are supposed to shape a political reality that underlines the core principles of our Union: respect for human dignity and human rights, freedom, democracy, equality and the rule of law. Gender equality as a core value is not only a question of human rights, solidarity and fairness, but of effectiveness, economic growth, sustainability and democracy. We want a Europe that represents the whole spectrum of society, that is to say women and men equally, regardless of their cultural, social or economic background. This must be reflected in the work and composition of our institutions, which should mirror the realities, and respond to the needs of, *all* people in Europe.

Still, this is not the reality yet. Consequently, PES Women and its member organisations are reminding and calling on:

- The European Parliament to ensure gender-balanced committees, committee chairs and heads of delegations;
- The European Council Members to propose two candidates, a woman and a man, for Commissioner in order to ensure gender parity in the Commission's college;
- The European Commission to make gender equality a dedicated Commission portfolio (stand-alone goal), and a priority of the President or a Vice-President of the European Commission (cross-cutting issue) and to apply a feminist approach to its overall policy-making;
- The European Commission to introduce gender budgeting and to allocate more budgetary resources in the next European Semesters to strengthen women's rights, including for the European Institute for Gender Equality;
- All institutions to amplify their ambitions to create and adopt legislation that improves the lives of women and girls in Europe; and, reaffirm their aim to achieve full gender equality, including through trainings on gender mainstreaming for staff and policy-makers;
- All institutions to introduce reporting mechanisms and mandatory trainings for staff and elected members on all types of harassment and sexism.

A crucial step for women's lives in Europe is to finally put forward an ambitious and binding EU Gender Equality Strategy, that: closes all gender gaps; that especially ends the wage gap between women and men; makes the work- life-balance Directive a reality; empowers women in economic and political decision-making; combats violence, harassment and sexism against women; and, that ensures access to sexual and reproductive health and rights for all women across Europe.

We reiterate our full support for Frans Timmermans in his candidacy for the Commission President. He has proven to be a real defender for a more social, just and feminist Europe. A European Commission led by Frans Timmermans will make sure the targets and principles of the UN Sustainable Development Goals will be the framework for the next mandate, and that gender equality will be put into practice as a real priority.

As 2020 will mark the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action, PES Women wants to restate its vision for a feminist Europe where each woman and girl can fully exercise her freedoms, choices and rights. Together with Iratxe Garcia Perez, newly elected President of the Social Democratic Group, we will continue our commitment to women's rights, further enhancing the chances of successfully taking forward gender equality policies in the European Parliament.