



## EUROPEAN UNION WOMEN CAUCUS

### BACKGROUND

*“Mr Juncker said it was “pathetic” that he had been unable to appoint more than nine women to the Commission”*

BBC2, 2 October 2014

We cannot agree more.

Today, 37% of the Members of the European Parliament are women, and nine out of 28 Members of the European Commission are female. Yes, this is a big step forward since the birth of the European Institutions some decades ago. But much remains to be done to advance female leadership and to increase the number of women in EU top positions.

Every five years, when the European Commission has to be renewed, and the mandate of the European Parliament comes to an end, the quest for female leaders is temporarily high on the agenda. The purpose of creating a EU Women Caucus is to make this quest permanent, through a strong network between the leading women in the Institutions of the European Union.

The EU Women Caucus was launched by the Women in Parliaments Global Forum (WIP) and the Italian Presidency of the European Union, on 2 December 2014.

### OVERVIEW OF THE CAUCUS

**What it is:** The EU Women Caucus builds the network between the leading women in the European Institutions: European Parliament, European Commission, the Council of the European Union, and the representations of the EU Member States to the European Union.

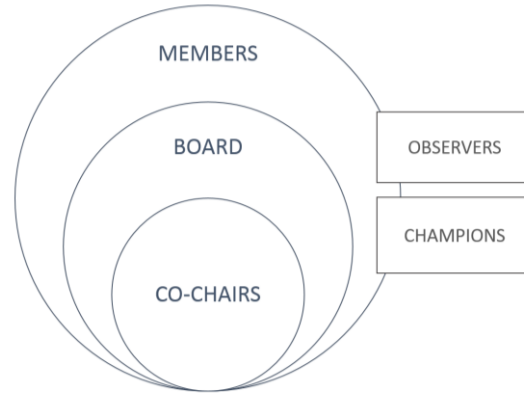
**Who is invited:** The EU Women Caucus is open to all female Members of the European Parliament, the female EU Commissioners, female Permanent Representatives of the EU Member States (Ambassadors to the EU), and top-level officials of the three EU Institutions. Male leaders of the EU Institutions are welcome to support the Caucus.

**What it does:** The EU Women Caucus is an informal platform for discussions about issues of relevance to the EU. The meetings are held under the Chatham House Rule, which states that participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker may be revealed. Apart from a regular bi-annual event with the respective EU Presidency, there is no formal agenda, and no votes are taken. WIP provides the platform for exchange and networking by hosting topical working sessions in different formats, thus facilitating the communication between the EU Women Caucus members.



## STRUCTURE

The Co-Chairs lead the EU Women Caucus. They are Vice-Presidents of the main political groups of the European Parliament. A Board accompanies the Co-Chairs to offer guidance. Civil Society is invited as Observers to the Caucus and male supporters are invited as EU Women Caucus Champions. The WIP Secretariat coordinates the work and assists the co-chairs.



## CO-CHAIRS



LARA COMI, VICE CHAIR EPP, MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



DIMITRIOS PAPADIMOULIS, VICE-PRESIDENT FOR GENDER EQUALITY, GUE, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



IRATXE GARCÍA PÉREZ, CHAIR FEMM COMMITTEE, S&D, MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



MARIA JOÃO RODRIGUES, VICE CHAIR S&D, MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



HELGA STEVENS, VICE CHAIR ECR, MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



SOPHIE IN 'T VELD, VICE CHAIR ALDE, MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT