

Claudine Hermann in Brussels on March 24th, 2011

EPWS presentation in a workshop

I was invited to present EPWS on March 24th morning at the meeting « **Defending women's rights** » **organised by DG Enlargement**. The 30 participants were women heads of various NGO concerned by women (women rights, sexual rights, women in sport,...) from Iceland, Balkans, Turkey. I spoke the last morning of a 2days ½ workshop. Many of these women had no idea on the EU operation rules. Good contacts were taken. I'll tell you in case there is a continuation.

Meeting with Gilles Laroche, head of "Ethics and Gender Unit"

I met **Gilles Laroche (GL)** at DG Research, for the second time. His unit has just been renamed "Science in Society" and is made of two sectors, one of which is "Gender", headed by Viviane Willis-Mazzichi, previously at DG Employment and then Luisa Prista's coworker at "Scientific Culture and gender Issues" in charge of citizens' participation. The other sector is named "Ethics".

The Research Commissioner took 3 commitments in front of the European Parliament in 2010 related to women:

- the Commission should behave exemplarily as for men-women equality
- the member States should be pushed to structural changes in research institutions
- a Communication campaign against stereotypes will take place in 2012.

GL insists upon EPWS answering the present consultation about the Green paper (due to May 20th), not only the women-related question but also those related to a better participation of Civil Society Organisations in EU actions.

He seems interested in collaboration with EPWS on dissemination of information through EPWS communication tools.

An inter-service (inter-DGs) group on women issues will be re- established, DG Justice being the one in charge of men-women equality at the Commission level.

He met Virginia Lambak (European Gender Institute, EGI): the field of research will come in the EGI responsibilities, there should be a transfer of the statistical work of GL's unit to EGI. She Figures publication will continue.

A Communication campaign towards the general public and young people against stereotypes is indeed planned for end 2011. The targets are teenagers, young women scientists, secondary teachers, decision-makers from the public and private sectors. Specific messages and supports are to be used in each of these cases. A meeting in May, Scientix, will deal with science education and research and will target teachers.

The creation of a gender portal (science and popularisation) will appear in the 2012 Work Programme.