Joint workshop
Committee of Women's Rights and Gender Equality in association with

Committee on Foreign Affairs
Committee on Development
Sub committee on Human Rights
Delegation for the relations with the Maghreb countries

The role of women in the democratisation process and governance changes in North Africa and the Middle East societies

20 June 2011, 15:30 - 18:30
Room: ASP 3 G 3

Draft Programme

15:30 - 15:35 Introductory remarks by Franziska Brantner, Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

15:35 - 15:45 The Arab democratic awakening: why, how, in which direction?" 

Prof. Bichara Khader, Director of the "Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches sur le Monde Arabe Contemporain (CERMAC)"

15:45 - 15:55 State of play on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in North Africa and the Middle East.

Prof. C. Flintermann, honorary professor of human rights, former member of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women.

15:55 - 17:10 Enhancing Women’s political participation: a key condition for a successful institutional transformation and democratisation.
Women emerged as key players in Arab spring. They were at the forefront of the popular movement. The panel will discuss women participation in the management of the transition, where already on track, and how to ensure in the context of new constitutions full participation and representation of women at all level in the political institutions.

Halima Jouini, member of the Tunisian Association of Democratic Women ("Association Tunisienne des Femmes Démocrates") and responsible for external relations

Salwa Fawzia El-Deghali, Member of the National Transitional Council of Libya (Libya)

Gameela Ismael, journalist and Fonder Member of El-Gad party, (Egypt)

16:40 - 17:05     Q&A session

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17:05 -17:15  Introductive remarks by a member of the Committee on Development (moderator) tbc

17:15 - 18.20  Advancing Women’s economic statute as a key factor in Arab human development and governance changes

"Gender inequality is one of the most significant obstacles to human development in the Arab region. Despite the legal guarantees for women’s right for political and economic participation, stereotypical gender roles are deeply entrenched, limiting women’s employment and decision-making opportunities, which are still the lowest in the world" (extract from UNDP website).

Soraya Badraoui, President of l'"Association des femmes chefs d'entreprises du Maroc" (AFEM)

Nadereh Chamlou Senior Advisor at the World Bank's Middle East and North Africa Region for Knowledge and Economic and Sector Work

Outi Karkkainen, Administrator in the Department ETF Operations, European Training Foundation, on access and participation of women in education, training and employment.

17.55- 18.20  Q&A session

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18:20 - 18:30  General Conclusions by Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou, Vice-President of the European Parliament.

16-06-2011