

**THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION**

THE SECRETARIAT

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**CONTRIB 270**

**COVER NOTE**

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from	Secretariat
to	The Convention
Subject :	Contribution submitted by Mrs Lena Hjelm-Wallén and Ms Hildegard Puwak, members of the Convention: - "Equality between men and women"

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The Secretary-General of the Convention has received the contribution annexed hereto from Mrs Lena Hjelm-Wallén and Ms Hildegard Puwak, members of the Convention.

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**Contribution from Mrs Lena Hjelm-Wallén and Ms Hildegard Puwak on equality between men and women**

An important principle when drafting the Constitutional Treaty is that it needs to be gender-conscious.

We welcome the fact that draft Article 3 on the Union's objectives now includes "equality between men and women".

The possible inclusion of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the Constitutional Treaty may further the basic thought that women's rights are inseparable from fundamental human rights.

We therefore still advocate an inclusion of the principle of equality between men and women in Article 2 as one of the basic values of the Union.

Equal representation of men and women should be an aim for delegations participating in EU decision-making.

Part II will comprise of provisions on the policies of the Union. The following issues should be considered:

- that a gender perspective be integrated into all policy areas at all levels. i.e. the concept of gender mainstreaming
- that policies and financial perspectives be formed in a way that ensures equal impact on lives of both men and women and does not discriminate between areas, e.g., where the promotion of full employment may only favour one gender
- that positive actions be used as a tool in efforts to promote gender equality

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