

**CONV 603/03**

**CONTRIB 270**

**SAATE**

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Lähettiläjä:	Sihteeristö
Vastaanottaja:	Valmistelukunta
Asia:	Valmistelukunnan jäsenten Lena Hjelm-Wallénin ja Hildegard Puwakin esitys – "Equality between men and women"

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Valmistelukunnan jäsenet Lena Hjelm-Wallén ja Hildegard Puwak ovat toimittaneet valmistelukunnan pääsihteerille liitteenä olevan esityksen.

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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

Lena Hjelm-Wallén  
Swedish Government  
representative

Hildegard Puwak  
Romanian Government  
representative