

POSITION PAPER

Send it back to peg@eypitaly.org no later than **12th February 2018**. Rename this file as “Surname – Committee” (eg. Rossi – AFCO).

Write your paper in 500-1,000 words.

<i>Name</i>	Luca	<i>Surname</i>	Biasinutto
<i>Committee</i>	Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET)	<i>School</i>	ISIS Malignani

Topic: Speaking with a single voice: The handling of past crises in the Middle East and Eastern Europe has shown the difficulties in uniting the 28 EU Member States' foreign policy interests, but also the influence a united Europe can exert abroad. Taking this into account, how should the EU maximise the effectiveness of its foreign policy while also respecting the interests of its Member States?

The EU's foreign policy has weakened in the ten years since the Lisbon treaty. In fact, the current situation is characterized by an exaggerated enthusiasm for the multilateral diplomacy and an unsuitable management of the crisis, for example in Ukraine and Syria. The EU is trying to unify its Member States' interests, but it is not doing its best in its relations with Russia. Besides, it is necessary to pay attention to the role of multinational corporations, whose position is really significant in this context.

The first and most important issue is to make present measures work in a more efficient way, in particular the European Neighborhood Policy (ENP), whose targets are the democratic transition, the partnership with civil people and a sustainable development.¹ In 2014, 40% of the population both in the southern and in the eastern neighbours showed a positive perception of the EU.² Yet, the political association and economic integration are not effective at present because of the EU's behaviour: the 16 countries of ENP are under the illusion of joining in, because the EU is offering help, but there are few real possibilities for them to have all the required requisites. The EU should be more firm about the needed parameters of admission in the EU. For example, Belarus is calling for a new co-operation deal with EU in October 2014, because its economy has been complicated by the reduction of relations with Russia and the crisis in Ukraine.³ On the contrary, Moldova is losing interest in EU's treaty, so that its president has confirmed that he had begun making preparations to join a Russia-led bloc.⁴

The role of Russia in EU's foreign policy is prominent, to the point that the EU should change its relationship with Russia. EU and Russia relation is based on the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA), which came into force in 1997 and since 2007 it has been renewed annually.⁵ The relationship is rather considerable:

¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ye0mvcW5nIM>

² Id.

³ <https://www.ft.com/content/a0ecd9c4-ac57-11e7-aab9-abaa44b1e130>

⁴ <https://euobserver.com/foreign/136582>

⁵ https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/35939/european-union-and-russian-federation_en

Russia is the main oil, gas, uranium and coal exporter to the EU, while the EU is an important trade partner of the Russian Federation so that the EU and Russia launched the EU-Russia Energy Dialogue in 2000.⁶ Although the economic relation and Energy Union, EU and Russia have converging as well as conflicting interests when it comes to the common neighbourhood. The Russian attitude is difficult to be changed, so the EU should operate where it is effectively possible. An interesting area of collaboration is the fight against the Islamist terrorist threat and cooperation on regional security issues. Consequently, the EU should concentrate on the creation of an effective army, which was understood by 23 countries with an agreement on 13 November 2017.⁷

The situation in Ukraine remains for the EU a crucial issue in the relations with Russia. The EU has started preparing restrictive measures since 2014, such as assets freeze and travel bans on 6 March 2014.⁸ Nevertheless, the EU should reduce them gradually, in order to concentrate on the peaceful resolution of the conflict in Ukraine, also for a better co-operation with Russia. Russia and the EU are also involved in the awkward situation in Syria. In fact, the EU is the largest donor for humanitarian and development assistance in that area with over 10 billions euros.⁹ However, Russia's representative to the EU Vladimir Chizhov certified that the EU often insists on political progress as guarantee, but meanwhile the conflicts are going on. So, humanitarian help must be supported with a practical intervention, and it takes back to the necessity of an actual army.

Finally, unifying Member States' interests is not possible without a real awareness of what means being part of the EU. All goals and values are laid out in the Lisbon Treaty, and they are fundamental for the consolidation of the European identity. On one hand, some bigger countries, such as Germany and France, have revealed selfish behaviours, while on the other hand the smaller ones are often not so involved in the European issue due to their lack of interest. The EU should put the leadership on the strongest countries from an economic point of view, avoiding potential authoritarian positions.

In addition to this, the Member States' interests are also influenced by multinational corporations, which are the most important economic entities in the process of globalization. Nevertheless, they often want to create monopoly profits and to control even an entire production sector in the host country, thanks to their economic strength and developed technology. The EU has already realized the problematic aspect of the relationship with multinational corporations. In fact, Parliament declared that taxes must be paid in the country in which the added value is created in the EU Digital Summit in Tallinn on 28-29 September 2017. At that point the powerful multinational corporations menaced to move business elsewhere.¹⁰ In spite of that intimidating reaction, the EU should maintain its promise of regulating business in a democratic society.

In conclusion, I believe the UE should, firstly, renew the ENP in order to make it more effective; secondly, change part of its behaviour towards Russia, because of its importance not only from an economic and energetical point of view, but also regarding the need of good neighbourhood relations; thirdly, the EU should control multinational corporations to safeguard democracy against the power of the very few.

⁶ Id.

⁷ <https://euobserver.com/foreign/139854>

⁸ <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/sanctions/ukraine-crisis/history-ukraine-crisis/>

⁹ <https://www.ft.com/content/21483e5c-f22a-11e7-b220-857e26d1aca4>

¹⁰ <https://themarketmogul.com/eu-taxation-multinational-corporations/>

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<i>Name</i>	Giulia	<i>Surname</i>	Del Torre
<i>Committee</i>	LIBE II	<i>School</i>	I.S.I.S. A. Malignani

<i>Topic</i>	Net questions: With the United States Federal Communications Commission recently voting to end net neutrality, the question arises what position the EU should take with regards to this topic. Bearing in mind the existing legal framework and the positions of different EU Member States, should the EU follow the example of the United States and relax its legislation on net neutrality or push for stricter net neutrality rules?
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Since the Federal Communication Commission has repealed net neutrality in the USA on 14TH December 2017¹¹, the debate about this issue has spread all over the countries. In the EU, a recent legal provision (Regulation (EU) 2015/2120 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015) is in force, which is integrated with the BEREC Guidelines on the Implementation by National Regulators of European Net Neutrality Rules. These legislative items protect net neutrality as a right of European citizens and provide measures and penalties if the rules are not respected. Given that the framework about net neutrality is quite recent and solid, a request of repeal is rather unlikely, at least until 2019 when the latest five-year mandate of the EU Parliament will end¹². However, considering the leading role of the United States, the risk that the same measures will be adopted in other countries, including the Member States, is concrete.

The reasons why net neutrality must be protected are many:

- i. Ensuring freedom of opinion and expression¹³;
- ii. Providing the same access to contents to all segments of the population¹⁴;
- iii. Being the first requirement in order to pursue the consolidation of the Digital Single Market;
- iv. Allowing web agencies and content providers to operate freely by stimulating the innovation of internet services;
- v. Preventing ISPs from monopolizing data traffic;
- vi. Avoiding the advent of a stratified internet, whose total access is extremely burdensome for the end users.

¹¹ Restoring Internet Freedom, Declaratory Ruling, January 4, 2018

¹² Last election 22-25 May, 2014

¹³ Universal Declaration of Human Rights, art. 19

¹⁴ General Assembly of United Nations, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, 16 May, 2011 (p.22)

Nevertheless, bearing in mind that the ideal of net neutrality is a utopian concept, stiffening the related legislation may not be the best solution. What needs to be done is formulating a clear and not unequivocal definition of what is meant as “reasonable traffic management”¹⁵ in the current regulation, establishing the exceptions which can be prioritized.

Such objection may refer to:

- i. Services concerning e-Health¹⁶;
- ii. Self-driving cars’ emergent technology¹⁷;
- iii. Temporary measures in order to avoid data traffic congestion;
- iv. Extraordinary requests from agencies that need a temporary supplement of data traffic;
- v. Sites that manage sensitive data.

Prioritizing these services should be considered compliant with the regulations also in order to guarantee the advent of the industrial revolution 4.0 which will increase data traffic.

Furthermore, the contested practice of zero rating¹⁸ does not represent an affront to the neutrality condition, rather it can be seen as an incentive that stimulates competition among the telecommunications companies. Provided that the access to all sites is granted with a basic rate plan, the introduction of a free service should be permitted. This action must be countered only when the operator allows access exclusively to his own applications by making public services pay.

In the case of MEO, the above mentioned basic services are all subject to payment and are divided into packages. End users are therefore forced to pay extra sums without having the possibility to use all the contents of the internet. The Portuguese NRA must recognize the illegality of such system and take the related measures. On the other hand, with regards to the Swedish media company Telia, the zero-rating practice related to Facebook (which allows users to access the service even after they have run out of data) is not to be considered a violation of the legislation. Telia allows the use of all internet contents anyway and simply makes an application free through an agreement with the supplier.

In conclusion, it is evident how putting an end to net neutrality only benefits ISPs, which can abuse their role as gatekeepers to manipulate data traffic with the mere purpose of pursuing profit. Without the protection of net neutrality, the consequences of the measures adopted by the ISPs would first affect service providers and consequently end users. The dynamism of small online entrepreneurial realities would be cancelled due to the costs to be incurred in order to obtain the priority of their contents. The access to information would then be diverted to the few pre-established results and so it will be easier to monitor the trends of end users by manipulating their level of knowledge. There would be a stratification of the network through the supply of packages limited to some services that would drastically increase the costs and thus become unsustainable for most of the population. Net neutrality must be protected in order to pursue progress for human kind and to prevent forms of centralization of power in the hands of few media giants.

¹⁵ Regulation (EU) 2015/2120, introductory clause 9 (p.2)

¹⁶ Public Consultation on Health and Care in the Digital Single Market, 20 July 2017 to 12 October 2017|

¹⁷ “Net Neutrality and the Driverless Future”, Laura Bliss, Jan 10, 2018

<https://www.citylab.com/transportation/2018/01/net-neutrality-and-the-driverless-future/550043/>

¹⁸ BEREC Guidelines on the Implementation by National Regulators of European Net Neutrality Rules, article 3(2), 37 (p.10)

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<i>Name</i>	Anna	<i>Surname</i>	Esposito
<i>Committee</i>	LIBE I	<i>School</i>	ISIS Arturo Malignani

Topic: Being a minority in your country: Out of Europe's closet of 90 indigenous ethnic groups, 33 form the majority in at least one country, while the rest, constituting up to 14 percent of the European population, lives as ethnic minorities in their respective home countries. What can the EU do to protect the cultural and linguistic rights of these ethnic minorities, while at the same time ensuring the integration of these minorities into society and political life?

Europe is a multiethnic continent: historical events have led significant changes in the European territory and also in its ethnical and cultural composition. It has been estimated that there are more than 400 minorities in Europe, for a total of 90 languages. While only 37 of these languages are considered official state languages, the other 53 are regarded as a “language without a state”.¹⁹ Member States and European Institutions are acting in order to promote the integration of indigenous people and ethnic minorities. Yet, measures can significantly differ among the Member States and so far the European Institutions have had a limited action range on this problem.

The main European issues are the integration of minorities, the EU approach against any secessionist or separatist movement and the huge gap in the treatment of minorities among the Member States. Let's start with the most important issue: the integration of indigenous people and ethnic minorities vital to respect their own culture and rights and necessary to integrate them in society as equal citizens. Minorities can be confronted by discrimination, denial of citizenship and vast under-representation. The European Union of Human Rights has reported that the field of employment is the one with the highest level of discrimination for minorities, especially for women.²⁰

Among the key reasons why such differences exist in the labor market of EU countries is the low education level of minorities²¹. To solve this fundamental problem, governments should assure the acquisition of citizenship in a short time, in order to ease any bureaucratic operation (for example, the deadline for the acquisition of citizenship in Italy is 730 days²²). Another point to consider is the lack of education for minorities. School should guarantee the presence of support teachers so as students belonging to a minority could be assisted by qualified personnel. Governments should also consolidate legal provisions against discrimination in workplaces.

¹⁹ FUEN: Self-conception and language diversity of European minorities, <https://www.fuen.org/european-minorities/general/>

²⁰ Report by FRA (European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights), 1696-pub-migrants-minorities-employment_EN

²¹ “Ethnic Minorities in the European Union: An Overview”, <http://ftp.iza.org/dp5397.pdf>

²² <https://www.cittadinanza.biz> > 730 giorni

Another relevant issue is the management of secessionist or separatist movements. In almost all European States, regardless of the form of government, there are nationalist movements. According to recent estimates, there are about a hundred movements that aspire to autonomy from central governments or self-determination of their own people. The reasons can be political but also economical. The most important cases are Scotland, Flanders, the Basque Country and Catalonia, which has recently voted for its independence.²³ These movements often lead to open conflict and violence within their national countries and they might degenerate in a civil war. Therefore, State governments should carefully consider the historical and cultural background of their minorities and through diplomatic dialogue find a compromise to safeguard the principles of their constitutions and recognize the needs of the existing minorities.

A further problem is the huge gap of minorities' treatments among the Member States. Indigenous groups often straddle borders and they can be subjected to differing policies. However, governments do not necessarily treat indigenous and minority people equally: this is the case of the traditional nomadic culture of Travelers in Ireland. Another example is the Sami language, which is recognized as an official language in Norway, broadly recognized in Sweden, but regarded as a regional minority language in Finland.²⁴ Furthermore, some states (France, Turkey, Andorra and Monaco) refused to sign up the "Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities"²⁵ because they do not recognize any minority in their country.²⁶ Considering the importance of the above mentioned Convention and its fundamental role in the policy of the Member States, it should be regarded as reference document by all Member States in order to remove any action of inequality against minorities and to aim at more homogenous policies.

In conclusion, the integration and the preservation of minorities in the European Union needs the following actions: firstly, Member States should improve their legislative procedures for the acquisition of citizenship and the educational support system of minorities; secondly, they should empower their mediation programmes to recognize minorities as an added value to their countries; thirdly, they should implement efficient measures to manage their potential separatist movements.

²³ <http://www.proversi.it/discussioni/pro-contro/20-movimenti-indipendentisti-e-secessionisti-europei>

²⁴ World Directory of Minorities and Indigenous Peoples - Overview of Europe.
<http://minorityrights.org/minorities/overview-of-europe/>

²⁵ Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/GuideMinorities8en.pdf>

²⁶ World Directory of Minorities and Indigenous Peoples - Overview of Europe.
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<i>Name</i>	Teresa	<i>Surname</i>	Gutierrez
<i>Committee</i>	TRAN	<i>School</i>	Malignani

Topic: Sustainable tourism for all: Taking into account the social and economic impact of mass tourism, how can the UE foster the conservation of Mediterranean coastlands while supporting economic growth in such areas?

Mass tourism along the Mediterranean coasts has dramatically increased in recent years, with strong social and economic impact in the related areas. Mass tourism involves large numbers of people invading places simultaneously. On one hand, it generates a lot of income for the target countries (more local jobs, more transport facilities), on the other hand its environmental, economical and socio-cultural consequences may become unsustainable in the long run.

According to the World Tourism Organization sustainable tourism can be defined as “Tourism that takes full account of its current and future economic, social and environmental impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and host communities”¹. In other words, this tourism should respect some constraints not to damage the environment. For example, it should avoid the destruction of some habitats to provide building sites and the pollution of seas, lakes and rivers. These factors cause a drastic reduction of the wildlife species and of the available farming land. A rough estimate of more than 8,500 species of macroscopic marine organisms should live in the Mediterranean Sea, corresponding to somewhat between 4% and 18% of the world marine species. This is a conspicuous figure if one considers that the Mediterranean Sea is only 0.82% in surface area and 0.32% in volume as compared to the world ocean².

Considering that tourism is mainly concentrated along the coast, coastal degradation and soil erosion are relevant. One study cited by the EEA (2001) suggests that three quarters of the sand dunes between Spain and Sicily have disappeared as a result of urbanisation linked to tourism development. To solve these problems, the local governments should issue specific laws that can prevent the construction of buildings near the shore or in protected areas. In addition, the supervision should be strengthened in order to make sure that the environmental regulations are respected. Some of these rules are:

- Do not waste water;
- Throw trash in the specific garbage bins;
- Do not interfere with wildlife.

With reference to the economical impact, a 2015 Eurostat survey claims that 25,2% of all the trips were made in a foreign country, 19,2% in another EU Member State and 6% outside the Union³. This entails that the money spent for holidays, instead of being used to develop the native country, is taken by TNC’s (Trans National Corporations) and therefore a lot of profits leave the country. Furthermore, the jobs generated by mass tourism tend to be seasonal. This means that the majority of people employed do not have stable positions,

they are badly paid with poor work conditions. Possible solutions could be to promote domestic tourism for the benefit of the local economy, to foster initiatives in favour of local businesses that work all year long. Poverty could be banned thanks to the help of associations like ILO (International Labour Organization)⁴.

The socio-cultural implication of mass tourism must also be mentioned. Even though tourism is a significant source of income, masses of tourists often cause tension to the local people. It happens because they can easily offend local culture, tradition and codes of behaviour in many ways:

- Not following the local dress code,
- Disrespecting the places of worship,
- Being rude to the people,
- Not supporting local activities,
- Vandalizing monuments.

The tourists' cultural awareness of the differences could be improved through the study of diverse beliefs and customs before travelling in that country. Tourists should also support local communities by eating local food, instead of buying the imported one. In addition to this, authorities should be stricter with those who disrespect the rules of the visited country.

In conclusion, tourism can be essential for the development of European regions. Infrastructures and jobs created for tourism purposes surely contribute to the local development. Moreover, sustainable tourism safeguards and enhances the local natural and cultural heritage. Failure to take into account the sustainability criteria would therefore provoke the degradation of the touristic places and the consequent decrease of tourism in those areas in the long run. Sustainable tourism is still far from being fully implemented and each government should support this cause actively.

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<i>Name</i>	Lorenzo	<i>Surname</i>	Paravano
<i>Committee</i>	ENVI	<i>School</i>	ISIS Malignani

Topic: Towards a low-carbon society: taking into consideration the EU's Road - map for moving to a competitive low-carbon economy in 2050, which further measures can the EU undertake in order to reach the ambitious target to reduce its CO2 emissions by 80% by 2050?

Air pollution can originate from both human and natural actions. Pollution from natural occurrences is marginal while human activities may produce emissions from industries or burning of fossil fuels and farming chemicals, which result in the release of carbon dioxide (CO₂) into the air and cause causing global warming and acid rains.

In 2011, the EU has decided to implement a 2050 Road map in order to reduce its CO₂ emissions to 80% below 1990 levels²⁷ and move to competitive low-carbon society.

The three main goals to reach the set target are:

- i. further increase clean energy research and development (R&D) investments,
- ii. public awareness of the effects of fossil-fuel and investments in everyday-life technologies,
- iii. level the cost disadvantage of most clean energy technologies to find more stakeholders.

Even though the EU increased its climate finance contributions to reach €20.2 billion in 2016²⁸, higher public and private investments in R&D and technological innovation are crucial in speeding-up the commercialization of all low-carbon solutions. To do so, the EU will need to provide frameworks, tax advantages and incentives to attract stakeholders' investments, focusing on the sectors which are more dependent on the use of oil and gasses. Besides, it is necessary to overcome the obstacles that impede the development of low-carbon innovations. Since organised stakeholders find it hard to break in with low-carbon innovations²⁹, the EU Investment Bank (EIB) should promote the following actions:

- i. to finance environmentally friendly, willing to replace their high-energy consuming equipment,
- ii. to reduce the support of mining companies dealing with fossil fuels.

Moreover, the EU should direct the investments of private companies and Member States towards energy efficiency and renewable energy. In fact, the power sector has the biggest potential for cutting emissions and improving energy efficiency. Investments in this area such as more efficient buildings, electrification and use of renewable fuels in transport and heating, will reduce imports of fossil fuels and improve affordability of energy for families and competitiveness for businesses by lowering energy bills.

²⁷ EU 2050 Low- carbon economy, *Benefits* https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/strategies/2050_en 20EU 2050

²⁸ EU Commission Directorate General on Climate Action (CLIMA)

https://ec.europa.eu/clima/sites/clima/files/strategies/progress/docs/swd_2017_xxx_en.pdf

²⁹ EU Commission *Evaluation of the online Stakeholder consultation*, March 2011

<http://eurlex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52011SC0287&from=EN>

Particular attention should be given to the development of renewable energy such as:

- i. solar power, whose costs worldwide fell by an average of 15% in 2016, making it the cheapest form of energy generation³⁰,
- ii. wind power, which by 2050 is projected to provide more electricity than any other technology in the high renewables scenario³¹,
- iii. hydroelectric energy, which is the world's largest low carbon source of electricity, supplying 16.6% of the total electricity in 2014³².

As public awareness of the effects of fossil-fuel consumption is growing, citizens are starting to become more caring towards their daily actions. In order to raise such awareness even more, the European Commission has persuaded all Member States to inform their citizens through national medias:

- i. about the effects and dangers of the global warming and CO2 emissions,
- ii. how to benefit from a low-carbon economy,
- iii. what changes can people make in order to reduce their CO2 emissions.

In addition, the EIB should focus on companies in need of capitals to improve the development of low-carbon technologies: for example, electric car manufacturers and zero emission buildings estate agencies. In fact, as the world electric car sales grew by more than 50% in 2016, electric cars are projected to become as cheap as petrol vehicles within five years³³ if the companies have enough capitals to invest on new technologies. In the pursuit of a CO2 emissions cut for cars, cities will need to become more well-connected and better equipped with a public transportation system characterized by an efficient low-carbon consumption. In order to do it, the European Parliament (EP) should debate whether or not pass a law on building sites (with houses close to services and closer to the centre of the city) and the creation of more pedestrian areas and cycle lanes.

Uncertainty is a major barrier to investment as innovation efforts in low-carbon technologies are strongly correlated to the price of oil, coal and gas, as shown by the recent decline in low-carbon innovation. In fact, it is a direct consequence of the collapse in oil prices from \$110 a barrel in August 2013 to \$64 in January 2018³⁴, which makes the value of future energy savings smaller. Consequently, EU policy will need to level the cost disadvantage that most clean energy technologies face when compared to fossil fuels. Moreover, the EU could reduce the number of allowances given by the Emission Trading System to the companies, spurring them to increase low carbon investments and to support the innovations needed to reduce emissions further.

In conclusion, the EU should perentorily set low-carbon standards for its current economy in view of a cleaner and healthier green Earth adopting the following measures: firstly, increase clean energy R&D investments, in particular in the power sector; secondly, inform all its citizens on the negative effects of massive fossil-fuel investments in everyday-life technologies; thirdly, set higher and stable carbon pricing mechanisms in order to direct innovation efforts towards low-carbon technologies.

³⁰ *“Reasons to be cheerful: a full switch to low-carbon energy is in sight”*

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/jan/19/reasons-to-be-cheerful-full-switch-low-carbon-energy-in-sight>

³¹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52011DC0885&from=EN>

³² http://www.ren21.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/REN12-GSR2015_Onlinebook_low1.pdf

³³ *“Reasons to be cheerful: a full switch to low-carbon energy is in sight”*

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/jan/19/reasons-to-be-cheerful-full-switch-low-carbon-energy-in-sight>

³⁴ *“Why aren't we investing enough in low-carbon technologies ?”*

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/10/how-to-reverse-the-dangerous-decline-in-low-carbon-innovation/>

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<i>Committee</i>	Committee on Women’s rights and Gender Equality (FEMM)	<i>School</i>	I.S.I.S. Malignani

Topic: Equality of all: According to the latest statistics from the European Commission, women in the EU are on average paid 16% less per hour than their male counterparts. While many Member States have already tried addressing this issue, should extra measures at the European level be taken to tackle this problem?

In 2006 the European Council adopted the first European Pact for Gender Equality in which is specified that equality between men and women is a fundamental value of the EU and that gender equality politics are vital to economic growth, prosperity and competitiveness. Considering the complicated nature of this phenomenon, it is questioned if it should be handled by single governments, public opinion or social partners. To achieve a better analysis of the problem there are three main aspects that should be taken into consideration:

- i) Women are subjected to a lower hourly earning,
- ii) Women are often confined into lower power position,
- iii) Women’s career progression is usually denied by motherhood.

Firstly, according to the latest statistics the gender pay gap in Europe is estimated on an average of 16.3%. This disparity is also confirmed to raise with age reaching a gap of 37.6%. A woman earns 84 cents per each euro earned by a man. Taking into consideration the European Pillar of Social Rights, men and women have the right to receive an equal payment for work on the same value. Having noticed that the Swedish government has already taken concrete measures in order to reduce and eliminate gender pay gap, the European Commission should promote the emanation of laws, enforceable in all Member States, to introduce the obligation of a governmental certification and the application of sanctions to companies and work places that do not effect equal payment between men and women involved in the same occupation.

Secondly, the gender pay gap is more pronounced among immigrant women, women with disabilities, women belonging to minorities and unqualified women, which are usually confined into lower power positions. Women are often subjected to vertical segregation (related to the position they reach in work places) and to horizontal segregation (related to the fields of jobs they work in). According to current statistics, most graduated women or women in possession of a PhD have decided to devote to humanistic subjects rather than dedicate themselves to science, technology, engineering or mathematics. Thus their skills do not always fit with company requirements or needs. An important measure that should be applied in order to drive female attention to scientific subjects is the promotion of specific and compulsory courses even within the humanistic sector of studies to empower the acquisition of technological competences that would open them the way to higher skilled jobs and positions.

Thirdly, there is the problem of motherhood which clashes with women’s careers. The majority of women usually chooses a part time job in order to dedicate more time to their children. Having a part-time job means

a reduced salary in comparison to the full time wage. Furthermore, part time women earn around 32% less than part-time men. The proposed measures are the following:

- i) emanation of laws that guarantee equal income for equal skills and tasks,
- ii) recognition of fatherhood so as to offer both parents the same opportunity of children's caretaking and working career opportunities.

To sum up, many measures should be taken in order to promote women's empowerment and to reduce the gender pay gap. These are my modest proposals:

- i) The establishment of a European law that obliges all companies to be in possession of a government certification declaring that both men and women receive the same income,
- ii) The promotion of school and university courses of study to empower women's technological and digital skills so that they can compete equally in the labour market
- iii) The establishment of a law that guarantees the same parenthood rights and opportunities to both parents.