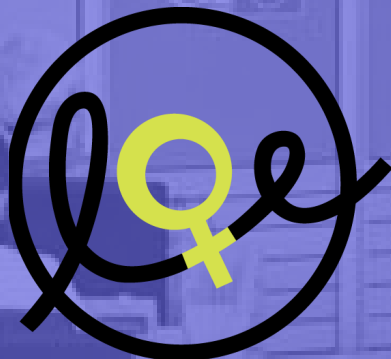


# Making Europe Work for Women



European Women's Forum Public Event  
June 6 2019



EUROPEAN WOMEN'S  
**LOBBY**  
EUROPEEN DES FEMME

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Speakers Biographies

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**The European Women's Lobby (EWL) is the largest umbrella organisation of women's non-governmental associations in the EU, representing close to 2000 member organisations from across Europe.**

**EWL envisions a society in which women's contribution to all aspects of life is recognised, rewarded and celebrated - in leadership, in care and in production; all women have self-confidence, freedom of choice, and freedom from violence and exploitation; and no woman or girl is left behind.**

**We call for a transformative agenda defining a clear collective vision for a feminist Europe; challenging stereotypes, sexism and patriarchal values.**



WOMEN FOR EUROPE



EUROPE FOR WOMEN



As part of our European Women's Forum, EWL's annual gathering of over 100 feminist activists and members from all over Europe, we are pleased to present our flagship public event on **Making Europe Work for Women**.

Less than two weeks after the European elections, we gather to assess the results and their consequences for all women across Europe. We bring together women's rights activists, decision-makers, elected politicians and citizens to strategise on how to put women's rights at the centre of the European project making sure that the European Union commits to achieve equality between women and men.

It will be the occasion to hear stories and ideas from the audience, leaving us energised, hopeful and ready to mobilise for what comes next. We will discuss the importance of parity in all European institutions, our main demand from our 50/50 campaign, and expand on what the European Union can do for women in the next five years and forward.

**Within this brochure you will find the detailed biographies of our honoured speakers**

**AGENDA:**

**16.30 - 17.30**

Registration for the event

**17.30 - 18.00**

Welcome by EWL President *Gwendoline Lefebvre*

Keynote speech by Former French Minister of Women's Rights, *Najat Vallaud-Belkacem*,

**18.00 - 18.55**

Panel discussion

*Ms. Najat Vallaud-Belkacem,*

*Ms Barbara Hendricks,*

*Ms. Monika Ladmanová,*

*Ms. Sirpa Pietikäinen*

*Ms. Frances Fitzgerald*

The panel discussion will be moderated by EWL Secretary General *Joanna Maycock* & followed by a Q&A

**18.55- 19.00**

Closing remarks by EWL Vice President *Ana Sofia Fernandes*.



## Gwendoline Lefebvre

Gwendoline Lefebvre was elected President of the European Women's Lobby in June 2018. She has been a Board Member of the EWL since May 2016, representing the Coordination Française pour le Lobby Européen des Femmes, EWL's National Coordination in France.

Gwendoline works in the private sector as a market research manager and holds a mandate as Deputy Mayor in the 9th district of the City Lyon where she is in charge of equality between women and men, citizen's rights, the fight against discrimination and people living with disabilities.

She is volunteer writer for the French feminist Clara magazine and has worked on numerous gender equality issues including ending violence against women, women's poverty and precariousness, sexist stereotypes, lack of space for women in the public sphere at the local, national, European and international level, especially for Femmes Solidaires, a wide feminist NGO in France.

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As President of EWL, Gwendoline wants to foster strength, solidarity and sisterhood among the women's movement, ensuring we have a more diverse and inclusive movement.

In support of the European Women's Lobby 50/50 Women for Europe/ Europe for Women campaign, Gwendoline states, *"Europe as we know it is changing. Women and girls, representing half of the population, will seize this unique democratic moment to drive forward the longstanding European values for an equal, inclusive, diverse and democratic Europe where no one is left behind. We need to shape the future together and stand-up for our values at the EU elections in 2019. The rise of anti-feminist populism and isolationist nationalism has drastically changed the political landscape in recent years and we refuse to be defeated by these forces. The resurgent women's movement is growing in huge strides, demanding equality between all women and men in and across borders. We still must take into account that change is happening at a different pace in different corners of Europe. Therefore, we call on all progressive political candidates to join us in shaping and safeguarding the Europe we want; to ensure that all women and girls in Europe have and enjoy equal rights"*



# Najat Vallaud-Belkacem



A law graduate of the Paris Institute of Political Studies (Sciences Po, 2000), she worked for a legal firm at the Council of State and the Supreme Court (Cour de Cassation). There, she gained expertise in pharmaceutical law, electoral law and human rights.

From 2003, she decided to get involved in local political life, first as Regional Councillor for the Rhône-Alpes region in charge of cultural affairs. She then became deputy mayor of Lyon, where she had the task of organizing major events as well as enhancing local democracy, community life and youth wellbeing. Following which, she was elected General Councillor for Social Affairs.

From 2007, she entered the political arena at the national level. She started off as national secretary of the Socialist Party in charge of societal issues, then became vice-president of Mouvement Européen France, a think-tank that advocates further European integration. She was also spokesperson for socialist presidential candidate Ségolène Royal.

In 2012, she took up the same role in François Hollande's winning presidential campaign. Following which, Najat Vallaud Belkacem successively held the position of Minister for Women's Rights, Minister for Urban Planning, Youth and Sports and finally Minister for Education, Higher Education and Research from August 2014 onward. The first ever woman to take up this role, she remained in office for three years. In March 2018, she decided to join the private sector and took up the position of Global Affairs CEO at Ipsos, an industry-leading firm in global market and opinion research. There, she heads studies that evaluate public policies for international institutions and organisations, NGOs, and other actors which act in the public interest at the global level.

In parallel to her endeavours at Ipsos, she runs "Raison de Plus", a collection of works dedicated to progressive causes within publishing house Fayard.

Last, she spearheads a gender equality and public policy programme ("Égalité Femmes – Hommes et Politiques Publiques") at Sciences Po.

# Barbara Hendricks

Swedish / Swiss citizen Barbara Hendricks was born in Stephens, Arkansas and studied at the Juilliard School of Music (New York) with Jennie Tourel, after receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics and Chemistry at the age of 20 from the University of Nebraska.

In 1974 she made her operatic and recital debuts and since that moment, Barbara Hendricks' career and artistry has never ceased to grow; she has become one of the world's most loved and admired musicians. She has sung in the major opera houses (including the Paris Opera, the MET in New York, Covent Garden in London and La Scala in Milano), concerts halls and festivals in the world, under the direction of the greatest conductors of our time such as Daniel Barenboim, Leonard Bernstein, Karl Böhm, Sir Colin Davis, Carlo Maria Giulini, Bernard Haitink, Herbert von Karajan, Lorin Maazel, Zubin Mehta, Wolfgang Sawallisch and Sir Georg Solti.

She made her jazz debut at the Montreux Jazz Festival in 1994 and has since then performed regularly in renowned jazz festivals throughout the world. Barbara Hendricks has sold more than 14 million records and recorded nearly 100 albums for Sony, Decca, DG and EMI / Warner. In 2006, she launched her own record label, Arte Verum, for which she is now recording exclusively.



She has worked to promote and defend Human Rights and in 2007 after 20 years of untiring service to the cause of refugees as a UNHCR ambassador they appointed her their only Honorary Ambassador for Life. In 1998 she founded the Barbara Hendricks Foundation for Peace and Reconciliation coordinating her work for refugees and Human Rights Defenders.

Among the numerous awards that she has received for her artistic achievements and humanitarian work include Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur, Commandeur des Arts et des Lettres, Prince of Asturias Award, Swedish King's Gold medal, Doctor of Music from the Nebraska Wesleyan University, Doctor of Fine Arts from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln, and Honorary Doctor of Music from the Juilliard School of Music in New York; she is a Member of the Swedish Academy of Music.



## Monika Ladmanová

Lawyer by education, human rights' activist by heart, Monika Ladmanova is devoted to the advocacy work for democracy.

After graduating from law school, Monika joined the non-governmental sector and started to work for the Czech Helsinki Committee as a lawyer for its Counseling Center for Refugees and Asylum Seekers.

In 1999 she was appointed by the Open Society Foundation Prague to develop its strategy and coordinate programs. Several projects of the Open Society Fund Prague have been operated through the public benefit association Open Society, which Monika became an executive director in 2003. In 2008 Monika joined the IT giant IBM based in Czech Republic, where she promoted corporate social responsibility principles and values.

In addition, Monika founded several non-governmental, non-partisan initiatives on human rights and gender equality.

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Since December 2014, Monika has been an Advisor in the Cabinet of the Commissioner Vera Jourova, her areas of focus are gender equality, anti-discrimination and minorities and corporate social responsibility.

In 2018, the European Commission finalised negotiations on the work-life balance directive, and it strived to overcome blockage on women on boards and to conclude the ratification of the Istanbul Convention. It launched an evaluation on equal pay, put in place measures to strengthen the role of equality bodies, reinforced the gender dimension in its international policy, as well as in a number of sectoral initiatives. It also adopted a Reflection Paper "Towards a sustainable Europe by 2030" in the follow-up to the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and as part of the future of Europe debate, emphasising the need to prioritise ambitious additional actions to deliver on the promise of gender equality in the EU.



# Sirpa Pietikäinen

Ms. Sirpa Pietikäinen is a Finnish member of the European People's Party (EPP) in the European Parliament. Ms. Pietikäinen is a former Finnish Minister of Environment (1991-1995). Her career at the Finnish parliament is extensive, ranging from the year 1983 to 2003. She first came to the European parliament to replace Alexander Stubb in 2008, and was re-elected in 2009, 2014 and 2019.

During the last term in the European Parliament, Ms. Pietikäinen was a member of the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee and a substitute member of the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee, as well as of the Women's Right and Gender Equality Committee. She is active in several organizations. Her positions of trust include Chairmanship of the Globe EU and membership in board of Alzheimer Europe.

A graduate from the Helsinki School of Economics, Ms. Pietikäinen has MSc (Business), and still teaches university courses on negotiations theory and practices.



Sirpa is committed to the idea of a Europe with a human face, a Europe that guarantees the respect of human rights, equal opportunities, social inclusion and access to high quality services. She affirms that to be able to achieve this, Europe needs economic stability and growth.

Sirpa was the leading rapporteur on the European Parliament report on Women in Political Decision-Making for the Women's Rights and Gender Equality Committee. Commenting on the report, Ms Pietikäinen stated, "*The proportion of women in political decision-making has not grown in recent years and in some decision-making bodies, it has even begun to decline. The result of this vote shows that the Parliament has the political will to take active measures to increase equality*",



# Frances Fitzgerald

Frances Fitzgerald is a Fine Gael parliamentarian for over 20 years, she is the current Fine Gael T.D. for the Dublin Mid-West constituency – having previously served as a Fine Gael T.D. in Dublin South East and recently elected member of the European Parliament.

Prior to her election to the Dáil, Frances served as Chair of the National Women's Council of Ireland (1988-92) and Vice President of the European Women's Lobby. She was also a founding member of the Women's Environment Network – as it was known then. As Chair of the National Women's Council she initiated and served on the second Commission on Women, chairing the Employment Sub-Committee.

She held the first conference in Ireland on 'Women and Decision Making' and championed the introduction of equality proofing mechanisms. Her trailblazing work on equality, her continued relentless progression of the principle of inclusivity and framework towards a rights-based approach earned her the title of European Woman of the Year in 1992.



In 2014, Frances was appointed Minister for Justice and Equality, where she enacted 27 pieces of legislation. The Sexual Offences Act radically reformed the laws regarding sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children. It also criminalised the purchase of sexual services. She initiated the Domestic Violence Act which introduced the new offence of coercive control and improved the protections available to victims of domestic violence by introducing a new emergency barring order. She signed the closure of St. Patricks Institution in 2017 and also established the Charities Regulatory Authority. She also initiated and launched the National Strategy for Women and Girls.

Frances introduced legislation for the holding of the Marriage Equality referendum. On May 23rd 2015, Ireland became the first country in the world to vote in a referendum to introduce an equal right to civil marriage for same-sex couples. In November 2015 Frances signed the Commencement Order for the Marriage Act 2015 which officially made marriage equality a legal reality.

# Ana Sofia Fernandes

Ana Sofia Fernandes is Vice President of the European Women's Lobby, Secretary-General of the Portuguese Platform for Women's Rights and Advisor at the Portuguese Economic and Social Council.

Between 2010 and 2015 she worked at the European Institute for Gender Equality as Stakeholders' Coordinator and Resource & Documentation Centre Officer.

With studies in International Relations and Cooperation for Development, her civic engagement dates to 2000, when she co-founded and was the first President of the Portuguese Network of Young People for Gender Equality.

Certified gender equality trainer, she held positions as member of the consultative council of the Commission for Equality and Women's Rights, President of the Portuguese Platform for Women's Rights, member of the General Assembly of the European Women's Lobby and member of the Board of the Association of Women from Meridional Europe. Her professional activity dates to 1995.



Among others, she performed duties at the General Directorate for Health, Institute for the Management of the European Social Fund, cabinet of the Minister of Work and Social Solidarity and cabinet of the High Commissioner for Immigration and Intercultural Dialogue.

Expert on issues such as women's economic independence, Ana Sofia has long advocated for improved political infrastructure at national and EU level; *"Our manifesto calls for a robust political Strategy on Equality between Women and Men covering the span of the European political mandate 2019-2024, reflecting the EU's obligation to ensure equality between women and men. We also call for macro-economic framework, post 2020 that puts gender equality at the heart of economic and social development, and this includes gender budgeting and specific funds for women's rights in the MFF to restore the imbalances"*.



## Joanna Maycock

Joanna Maycock has been Secretary General of the European Women's Lobby (EWL) since 2014. A lifelong feminist, activist and leader.

Joanna has 20 years' experience in leadership positions in Civil Society. Before joining EWL, Joanna led ActionAid International's work in Europe and was the first (and only) woman President of CONCORD, the European Confederation of Development NGOs.

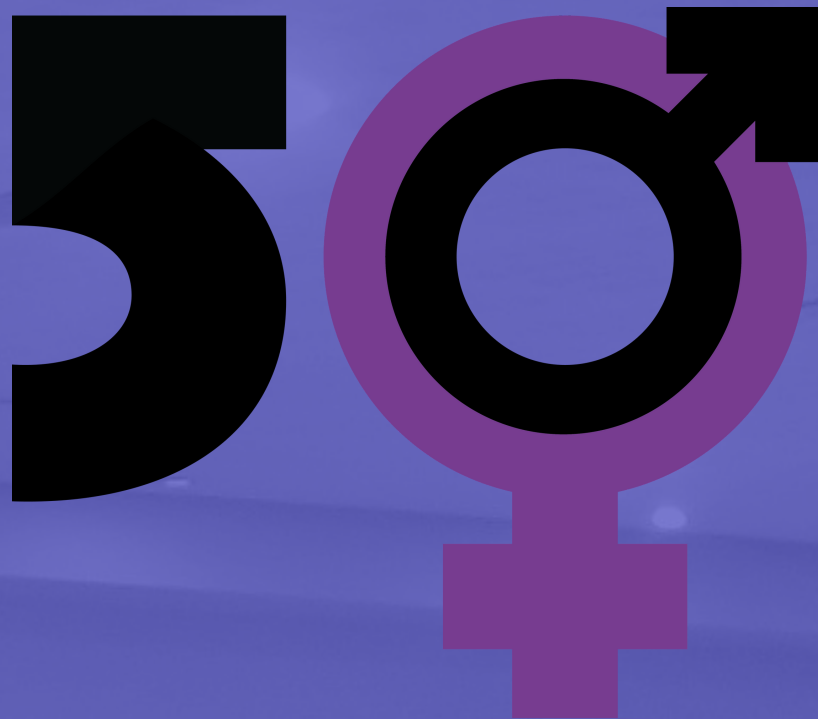
Since joining the EWL, Joanna has been leading work to define a dynamic new strategic vision for the women's movement in Europe, to strengthen its joint vision and work towards a feminist Europe.

In 2018, Joanna was named one of Apolitical's Top 100 Most Influential People in Gender Policy. She has recently been nominated as the first Fellow at the Political Science Department at the Université Libre de Bruxelles.



Joanna is a leading figure in women's networks discussing women in leadership and feminist leadership in Brussels and was named one of the most influential women in Brussels by Politico newspaper in 2016, which described her as "A powerhouse on the Brussels NGO and political scene, (she) is in the vanguard of Brussels feminists, with an open line to leaders across the city".

Representing the EWL, Joanna States, "We believe in a truly feminist Europe that is underpinned by our core values: equality between women and men, diversity, peace, dignity, justice and respect. There is still a lot of work to do to realise this goal: progress towards gender equality has stalled, leaving women facing significant and enduring barriers in many aspects of life including health, safety, education, employment, work-life balance, power and economics. The 2015 EIGE Gender Equality Index shows that we have stopped progressing in reducing the inequality gap between women and men across the 28 EU Member States."



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