



Interpretation EN-ES-FR

(Platform: Interactio)

Description

The [EU Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025](#) places equality at the centre of the EU political agenda. The gender mainstreaming perspective of the strategy aims at strengthening gender equality in and through all the EU's policies and key actions during 2020-2025, including on equal leadership for women and men in all spheres.

According to the [2019 Gender Equality Index](#), the domain of **power** is the most concerning area in terms of gender inequalities. In the European political sphere today, there are 1 million local and regional elected officials, but only about 30% of those are women. At the current rate of progress, it will take 94.5 years to close the gender gap in political empowerment and representation. As indicated by the Council of European Municipalities and Regions' [study on women in politics](#), only 29% of local councillors in Europe are women and the proportion of women mayors is only about half that at 15%. At regional level, there are much fewer women leading regional assemblies (18%) than women members of regional assemblies (31%).

Local and regional authorities have a crucial role to play and can be key actors in addressing gender equality thanks to their specific competences. In October, the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) will present its official opinion on the new European Equality Strategy, which follows the adoption of the [Strategy for a gender balance in members' participation in the CoR](#) by the CoR Bureau in 2019 which aims at improving gender balance in the nomination of the CoR Members.

How do we tackle the barriers women face in entering politics and the discrimination and unique challenges they face once in office?

How are EU Institutions and our politicians actively engaging in this matter?

The CoR rapporteur of the opinion *A Union of Equality: Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025* will discuss the key points of the CoR opinion and highlight the need for close cooperation among the different political levels with the Chair of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality of the European Parliament, the Director General of the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers and the Chair of the CEMR Standing Committee for Equality. The latest figures on women's participation in politics will be presented and the necessary steps and ideas for action to close the gender gap will be discussed. Young Elected Politicians (YEPs) will share their experience at local and regional level in addressing gender equality and parity democracy.

Agenda:

- **Andreu Rodríguez Concepción**, CoR rapporteur of the opinion *A Union of Equality: Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025*;
- **Evelyn Regner**, Chair of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality, European Parliament;
- **Salla Saastamoinen**, Acting Director General, DG for Justice and Consumers, European Commission;
- **Emil Broberg**, Chair of the CEMR Standing Committee for Equality: CEMR study "*Women in Politics: Local and European Trends*".

Moderator: Claudia de Castro Caldeirinha, Leadership professor and CEO of RedScope Consulting
