

Table of Contents

Executive summary	5
Introduction	13
Section I: Women in European politics	17
1. Introduction	18
2. Elected representatives: the gender balance in parliaments	19
2.1 European level: progress towards gender equality has stagnated	19
2.2 National level: still less than one in four members of parliament are women	21
2.3 Regional and local levels: general correlation with the situation at national level..	23
3. Candidates: time to give women more opportunity	27
3.1 More women candidates usually means more women elected but a man has a better chance	27
3.2 Quotas can help the move towards gender parity but are not a guarantee of success	30
3.3 Do electoral systems and political parties give women an equal chance?	32
3.4 Re-election of incumbents restricts the rate of change	34
3.5 Candidates for the European Parliament: more women needed	36
4. Voters: the general public decides ... if they can be bothered	39
4.1 Major effort needed to increase voter interest in the European elections	39
4.2 Gender based voting? Probably not	40
5. Nominated positions: an opportunity to increase the profile of women in politics	41
5.1 European level: some progress in the European Commission	41
5.2 National level: some women in prominent positions	43
5.3 Regional and local levels: few women with executive power	45
Section II: Influence beyond politics	47
1. Big business – women still excluded from the inner circle	48
2. High finance – another difficult area for women to penetrate	51
3. Public administration – more women putting policies into practice	53
Statistical annex	57

List of figures

1	Gender balance amongst members of the European Parliament, 1979-2008	20
2	Representation of women in the European Parliament and in national parliaments, 2008 (end September)	21
3	Representation of women in national parliaments, 2008 (end September)	22
4	Representation of women in national, regional and local assemblies, 2008	24
5	Representation of women in regional and local assemblies compared to the national parliament, 2008	25
6	Participation of women in local politics in France, 1947-2008	26
7	Gender distribution amongst the mayors of EU towns, 2007	27
8	Share of women elected as members of national parliaments compared to the share of women candidates	29
9	Share of candidates elected to national parliaments by gender: ratio women/men	30
10	Share of women candidates and elected members of national parliaments by type of quota system	32
11	Representation of women among candidates for election to the European Parliament, 1999 and 2004	36
12	Women candidates at the 2004 European elections and the most recent national election ..	37
13	Voter turnout at the most recent European and national elections	40
14	Number of different individuals nominated as European Commissioners by country	42
15	Representation of women in national governments and parliaments, 2008 (end September)	43
16	Gender balance in national governments (senior and junior ministers), September 2008	44
17	Women leaders of regional executives and regional assemblies (where applicable), 2008	45
18	Gender balance amongst members of regional executives, 2008	46
19	Gender balance on the boards of large companies, 2008	50
20	Numbers of women on the boards of large companies, 2008	50
21	Women board members in large companies – comparison of results from two independent surveys carried out in 2008	51
22	Gender balance in the key decision-making bodies of central banks, 2008	53
23	Gender balance in the top two levels of the civil service, 2008	54
24	Share of women civil servants in the two highest ranking administrative positions in the three main European institutions, 2008	55

List of tables

1	History of full suffrage for women across Europe	19
2	Women elected or appointed head of European states since 1945	23
3	EU countries with major cities run by women mayors	26
4	Types of electoral gender quotas applied to national elections in the EU	30
5	Women heads of large companies	49
6	Female governors of European central banks	52
7	Representation of women amongst the top-two levels of civil servants, 2008	54
A.1	Share of women members of the European Parliament by country, 1979-2008	58
A.2	Gender balance in national parliaments, regional assemblies and in the European Parliament, 2008	59
A.3	Gender balance amongst candidates and elected representatives at recent elections to national parliaments (single/lower house)	60
A.4	Gender balance amongst candidates for elections European Parliament, 1999 and 2004	61