

High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission Mr Josep Borrell



17 December 2020

Elevation of EEAS Gender Principal Advisor to EU Special Representative

Dear High Representative,

We, the undersigned Members of the European Parliament, are reaching out to you since the mandate of Ambassador Mara Marinaki, the first-ever EU/EEAS Principal Advisor on Gender and on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, draws to its end on 31.12.2020.

We congratulate Ambassador Marinaki for her fundamental achievements, such as, among other things, the creation of a robust EU policy framework on WPS, and for enhancing EU leadership through global partnership with multilateral and regional partners to help accelerate progress on the WPS agenda.

To our great concern, no official procedure to fill the vacating post has been launched, leaving open whether the indispensable work will continue next year.

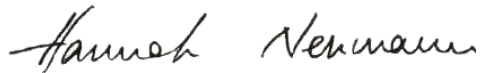
As rapporteurs of the AFET opinion and as rapporteur of the FEMM report on Gender equality in EU's foreign and security policy, we regret the limited capacity of this role, and call, in line with paragraph 19 of said text, to significantly strengthen its capacity and for them to report directly to you.

Thus, we urge you to make use of the opportunity that the ending of Ambassador Marinaki's term offers and to elevate the position of the Principal Advisor on Gender to the role of *EU Special Representative on Gender and on the implementation of UNSCR 1325*, and to assign more resources to this crucial position.

We trust that the EEAS remains fully committed to respond to the call from the European Parliament and the Member States for the EU "to lead by example", and that you seek to effectively implement your repeatedly made statement that "Gender equality is an EU objective on its own" by implementing the newly presented Gender Action Plan III.

We are convinced that the elevation of the post to EUSR will allow the EEAS to effectively build on its remarkable achievements on gender and WPS and to continuously ensure that gender and the WPS agenda remain at the heart of the EEAS' action.

Yours sincerely,



Hannah Neumann
Member of the European Parliament
Rapporteur AFET Opinion



Ernest Urtasun
Member of the European Parliament
Rapporteur FEMM Report

Idoia Villanueva, Member of the European Parliament, Shadow Rapporteur AFET Opinion
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Katarina Barley, Member of the European Parliament, Shadow Rapporteur AFET Opinion
Hilde Vautmans, Member of the European Parliament, Shadow Rapporteur AFET Opinion