



PES Women President Zita Gurmai addresses French President Nicolas Sarkozy as French Presidency of the EU starts

European Parliament, 10 July 2008

Mr. President,

Three points, as the only speaker from the "eastern side of the Berlin Wall". I'm disappointed because Mr. President did not mention gender issues in his contribution. Luckily, we, female MEPs from sever parties put in writing in a letter what we would like to. The flowers are from us, too.

- 1) I welcome the efforts that the French Presidency is doing in promoting gender equality at European level, it is quite contradictory to hear that at local level in France gender equality bodies are being closed. Would you be proposing a certain policy for Europeans while implementing a different one at home?
- 2) President, you informed the French citizens that in the next 5 years 350 000 places for childcare will be created, I welcome this idea as this is a tool to give women and men the equal possibility to enter the labour market and to balance family and work life. But let's not forget, childcare has to be of good quality, affordable and accessible for everyone as a tool for equality and integration.
- Still talking about family life, how do you think that women will be able to balance professional and private obligations if they have to work 65 hours a week? Women are more vulnerable in relations of employers and they are generally less involved in trade unions.
- 3) Yes we need a European Migration Policy. But let's make it a policy that talks about rights and duties of all citizens, including migrants. Migration policy goes hand in hand with integration policy, integration policy of an inclusive citizenship.

