

Equality Days in the EU

7th May 2009

Conference Report



Sandra Moneo: "Spain has dropped 7 points in the European Equality ranking after 5 years of superficial policies, which have proved ineffective."

Teresa Jimenez Becerril: "Reality is far different from Zapatero's wish to end domestic violence with this law".

On 7th May La Fundacion para el analisis y los estudios sociales (FAES) celebrated Equality Day in the European Union. FAES Secretary General Garcia Legaz, Equality and Education policy secretary for the People's Party, Sandra Moneo, and the People's Party candidate in the European Parliament elections Teresa Jimenez Becerril, participated in the forum's inauguration.

Ms Moneo regretted that "Spain had fallen 7 points in the European Equality ranking after 5 years of superficial policies, which have proved ineffective." "From 1996 to 2004, we progressed from theory to practice in terms of effective policies on equality; five years later, we have an Equality ministry that has affected more than 40% of its budget to staffing and and running costs". Contrary to Zapatero's statement on the absence of social fracture, Ms Moneo declared that "the first social fracture lies in not being able to find a job."

Mrs Becerril said she wanted to live in a country where no woman could be humiliated, where real progress lay in job creation and where the government takes a woman into consideration for reasons other than just winning her vote." Regarding the situation of women facing domestic violence, Teresa Jimenez Becerril highlighted how reality was far different from the ideal world sketched by Zapatero when he stated that this law would



end domestic violence.”

Following the inauguration, a round-table took place on “The Major Challenges Faced by Women”, which was attended by Rosa Estaras, People’s Party European Parliament candidate, Immaculada Alvarez, chair of the Omega Business Women’s Association, Gloria Juste, chair of the Women’s Association together with Carmen Funez, Senator and Secretary General of Women in Equality.

The forum continued with a speech by Concepcion Dancausa, the city of Madrid’s representative for Social Affairs and Family on the role of local governments in the struggle against domestic violence.

The afternoon session started with a round-table on the protection of motherhood, a vital mainstay in equality policies. Participants were Senator Carmen Duenas, Eduardo Hertfelder chairman of the Family Policy Institute, Caroline Martin Garcia General Manager for the Family at the Valencia Social Welfare Office and Eva Holgado, chairwoman for Large Families.



The forum ended with a debate on “New European Citizens” in which lawyer Veronica Lopez, Ligia Mihalla, chair of the Romanian-Moldavan-Spanish Association, Randa Sayegh, local town councillor for the economy, local development and immigration for Villanueva de la Cañada, and Mercedes Fernandez, director of the magazine Migraciones Revue took part.