



Press release

17 February 2022

Page 1 of 2

Federal Ministry
for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens,
Women
and Youth
Glinkastraße 24
10117 Berlin, Germany

Germany and France become engine of European gender equality

Federal Government decides to vote in favour of EU Women on Boards Directive

Women continue to be underrepresented at top management levels of private-sector companies. With the help of binding standards they are to take part in economic life on an equal footing with men in all European Member States. To this end, the EU Directive on improving the gender balance among non-executive directors of companies was drafted. Today, the Federal Government, a traffic light coalition, has decided to vote in favour of the French Presidency's revised version of the Directive and has thus ended a 10-year deadlock.

Anne Spiegel, Federal Minister for Women: *“With today’s decision by the traffic light coalition government we will help advance gender equality tremendously in Europe. After a 10-year deadlock we have thus achieved an important milestone. In the European Union, women still do not have the same opportunities to reach leadership positions as men. But we can clearly see: binding quotas work! In countries with a fixed share of women we can sometimes find twice as many women on boards of publicly listed companies as in countries without quotas. The Directive constitutes a necessary step towards greater gender equality. Germany and France will jointly become the engine of European gender equality.”*

Annalena Baerbock, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs: *“If women are not adequately represented in key areas of political power, democracy will be incomplete. This is not only true for newly emerging economies, but also for Germany and for the EU. It is unacceptable that we have to search high and low to find women on supervisory and management boards. [...]*

On the EU Women on Boards Directive

The Directive aims to substantially increase the share of women on boards of publicly listed companies in the EU.

Phone: +49 3018/555-1061/-1062
Fax: +49 3018/555-41111
presse@bmfjsfj.bund.de
www.bmfjsfj.de

The EU Directive is to be adopted by the Council for Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs (EPSCO) in Brussels on 14 March.