

To:

Nicolas Sarkozy, President for the European Council
José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission
Hans-Gert Pöttering, President of the European Parliament

Brussels, december 10th, 2008

Dear Hans-Gert Pöttering

Later this week European leaders gather in Brussels at the European Council. One of the key issues on the agenda is the future of the Lisbon treaty.

The Lisbon Treaty states that: *"In all its activities, the Union shall aim to eliminate inequalities and to promote equality, between men and women."*

One of the ways to promote equality and respect among European citizens is to acknowledge their right to be heard.

The citizens' initiative "Females in Front" (www.femalesinfront.eu) has won the support of more than 100,000 European citizens all demanding that at least one woman is appointed to one of the four top institutional positions, which are going to be filled in 2009 when the Lisbon Treaty enters into force.

We, the initiators and signatories behind Females in Front, ask you to secure that the Union fulfils the Treaty's goal of gender equality in the upcoming nomination of the President of the European Commission, the High Representative for Foreign Affairs, The President of the European Parliament, and the permanent President of the European Council. We believe this issue should be raised together with your discussion on the future of the Lisbon treaty.

We look forward to hearing the result of your discussions

Yours sincerely,

Lissy Gröner
Inger Segelström
Catherine Trautmann
Zita Pleštinšká
Kathalijne Maria Buitenweg
Daniel Cohn-Bendit
Sarah Ludford
Luisa Morgantini
Christel Schaldemose
- Members of the European Parliament