

Group of the Progressive Alliance of  
**Socialists & Democrats**  
in the European Parliament

European Parliament  
Rue Wiertz 60  
B-1047 Bruxelles  
T +32 2 284 2111  
F +32 2 230 6664  
[www.socialistsanddemocrats.eu](http://www.socialistsanddemocrats.eu)

Brussels, 8 March 2018

Tsetska Tsacheva  
Minister of Justice  
The Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU 2018

**Subject: Gender Balance at the Court of Justice of the European Union**

Dear Minister,  
Dear Ms Tsacheva,

On 28 February 2018, further to the partial renewal of the composition of the Court of Justice of the European Union, the Member States appointed nine judges and three advocates-general to the Court of Justice. We learned with great disappointment that of these twelve new appointments, only two were female.

Equality between women and men is a fundamental EU value and the promotion of it is one of our core objectives. It was in this spirit that in 2015 the European Parliament and the Council decided during the reform of the judicial framework of the Court of Justice to call on "*Member States [to] gradually begin to nominate two Judges for the same partial replacement with the aim therefore of choosing one woman and one man [...].*" The European Parliament once again recalled the importance of gender balance among the judges at the Court of Justice in 2016 when it agreed on the *Transfer to the General Court of the EU of jurisdiction at first instance in disputes between the Union and its servants*. Last year the Council was invited to attend the plenary session of the European Parliament to answer questions and explain about the lack of progress in achieving gender balance at the Court. Despite our continuous calls, the situation has not changed, as Member States keep proposing male candidates.

Against this backdrop, we strongly urge you, as Minister of the Presidency of the Council of the EU responsible for Justice, to deliver on our joint commitment. We count your action to address the gender balance among the judges at the Court of Justice. At the same time, we call on the Member States to undertake measures in order to promote gender equality when it comes to appointments of new judges.

The nomination of judges to the Court of Justice of the European Union is entirely within the responsibility of Member States. Five judges and two advocates-general still have to be appointed in 2018 and we have strong expectations that new appointments will reflect the principle of gender equality.

Kind regards,

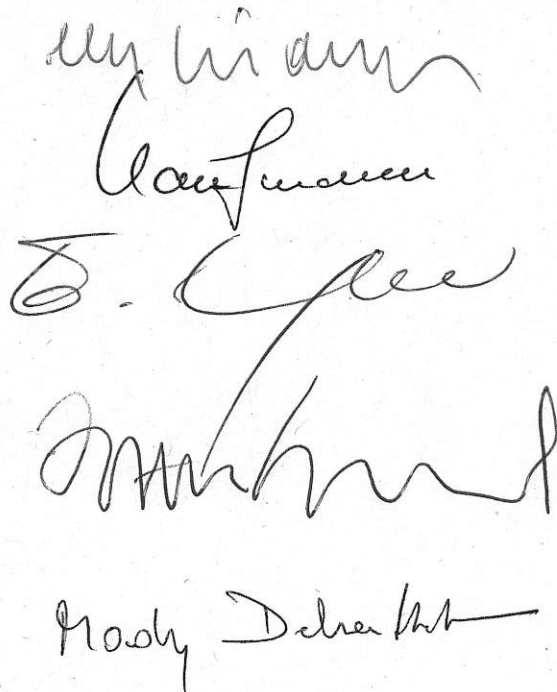
Josef Weidenholzer  
S&D Vice -President

Sylvia-Yvonne Kaufmann  
S&D Legal Affairs Coordinator

Mady Delvaux  
S&D Shadow rapporteur on the Reform of the Court of Justice

Evelyn Regner,  
Former S&D Legal Affairs Coordinator

Jytte Guteland  
Legal Affairs Committee Gender mainstreaming rapporteur



The image shows four handwritten signatures in black ink, arranged vertically. From top to bottom, they correspond to the names listed in the typed text above: Sylvia-Yvonne Kaufmann, Evelyn Regner, Jytte Guteland, and Mady Delvaux. The signatures are fluid and cursive.

cc: EU Permanent Representations