



Mérida, 9th February 2016

Invitation to join the CALRE 2016 Working Group on Equal Gender

Dear CALRE members,

It is an honour and a great pleasure to chair the coordination of the CALRE Working Group on Equal Gender in 2016.

Therefore, as coordinator of this group, I think it is necessary for me to check whether there are any Regional Legislative Assemblies interested in becoming members of the above mentioned Group or in confirming their membership.

During the year 2016, in continuity with those of my predecessors who have already commissioned questionnaires and surveys pertaining to factual information about Gender equality within our European Legislatures, I would like to propose to the Working Group an analysis of parliaments' efforts to become more gender-sensitive institutions and the range of strategies implemented by all of them in this matter, specially on equal opportunities for mothers and fathers, members of parliaments, to balance work and family life or the parental leave, encouraging parliaments to take and/or support initiatives to help parents manage their childcare responsibilities.

A gender-sensitive parliament is one that responds to the needs and interests of both men and women in its structures, methods and work. Parliaments are well placed to champion the goal of gender equality and aim to reflect society, and so they must reflect the changing dynamics of their electorates.

In addition, through this Working Group I would like to discuss and exchange best practices, experiences and strategies with fellow CALRE members in a range of areas, including gender mainstreaming or promotion of equality between women and men in decision-making; priority areas of the Commission Strategic engagement for gender equality 2016-2019.¹

¹ [Strategic engagement for gender equality 2016-2019](#)  (2 MB)



I would like to introduce the result of the analysis in a CALRE Working Group meeting/seminar, here, at the Assembly of Extremadura in Mérida with a provisional date in June or September 2016 being considered for this event.

In the coming weeks you will receive the complete Working Programme for the year 2016 and further details and indications.

May I therefore encourage those of you interested in this subject matter to join the 2016 Gender Equality Working Group, by completing the attached form and returning it by Monday 29th February.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon (a note of no participation in the Working Group will be also appreciated) and thanking you in advance for your kind cooperation, I remain.

Yours faithfully,

Blanca Martín Delgado
President of the Assembly of Extremadura