

## **Annex**

### **Activity report 2012-2013**

The Committee on women's rights has chosen the topic "The role of women in the new governance." It met twice: 6 December 2012 and 24 January 2013.

The first meeting that was held in Zagreb was opened by Mr. Josip LEKO, President of the Croatian Parliament.

Mrs Cecilia ATTARD-PIROTTA, Deputy Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) in charge of Social and Civil Affairs, participated in the this meeting.

The second meeting was held in Brussels and organized jointly with the Committee on political affairs, security and human rights in order to discuss the common topic "women in politics".

Given that the Committee had already made several recommendations during the previous sessions, but which had not been implemented, the members of the Committee underlined the necessity to concentrate on concrete action during this meeting.

The debates were rich and fruitful. The general impression of the Committees' members is that the number of women in the positions of political decision-making does not correspond to the ambition and hopes.

They emphasized that despite the efforts made on the national and regional levels, women in the Euro-Mediterranean area still suffer from numerous obstacles which deprive them from their fundamental rights and which hinder them from reaching parity, particularly as far as political participation is concerned.

They stressed the need to develop the concept of "parity democracy" and the integration of gender approach by the different governments.

On the other hand, and in her quality as Chair of the Committee, Mrs Samira MERAI-FRIAA participated in the preparatory meeting of the Civil Society Forum which was held in Casablanca from 22 to 25 November 2012 and which was dedicated to the topic "the contribution of women to dialogue and change", and participated in the Civil Forum which took place in Marseilles from 4-7 April 2013.

Finally, at the occasion of the International Women's day, the Committee Chair invited the members of the Committee's Bureau to meet in Tunis on 8 March 2013, but unfortunately the meeting had to be postponed since the members were not available.