



To the  
President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen  
Vice-President of the European Commission Roxana Mînzatu  
Commissioner for Equality Hadja Lahbib

Brussels, 24 February 2025

Dear President of the Commission von der Leyen,  
Dear Vice-President Mînzatu,  
Dear Commissioner Lahbib,

We are writing to you as FEMM Coordinators of S&D, Renew, Greens/EFA, The Left, and other Members of the European Parliament who are committed to urge the EU and its Member States to safeguard and promote sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) for all individuals in the European Union.

With view to the landmark *Roadmap for Women's Rights* to be published in less than two weeks, we want to express our high expectations that this Roadmap will be an ambitious and visionary political document reaffirming the EU and Member States' commitment to SRHR, including the access to safe and legal abortion, as common enabling principles and objectives to secure women's health and rights and advance gender equality.

We very much welcome that the new EU Commission has received the clear mandate to work on these important topics and thus advance respect for women's fundamental rights.

The Roadmap is a critical opportunity to set out the long-term vision of the new Commission in this area, to step-up efforts and ensure that consistent respect and protection of women's health and rights across the EU are a key priority for the EU in the years to come. This is even more important in times of threat to our common values of democracy, equality and freedom, and in particular, in times when achieved standards of SRHR are facing unprecedented global challenges and risks.

For the European Parliament to be able to endorse the Roadmap it will be a precondition that the text does not lag behind already adopted EU wording expressing the EU's and Member States' commitment to SRHR, such as in the following documents:

- [Report on the Situation of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in the EU, in the frame of women's health](#) (so-called „Matic Report”), adopted in April 2021
- [Resolution on the Inclusion of the Right to Abortion in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights](#), adopted in April 2024
- Joint [Ministerial Declaration](#) on the Guarantee of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in the European Union, adopted during the Spanish Presidency in 2023, **which does mention abortion specifically**. *“Ensure access to safe and legal abortion and to post abortion care by removing barriers that hinder its exercise. Also adopt specific measures to ensure women's and girl's rights to access health services, to guarantee the provision of these services by the public health system and within reasonable geographical reach and to guarantee that the due recognition of individual's conscience clause of medical staff does not hinder women's and girl's exercise of these rights.”*
- [New European Consensus on Development](#) – adopted by the European Commission and the Council through Council Conclusions, paragraph 34: *“The EU remains committed to the promotion, protection and fulfilment of all human rights and to the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the outcomes of their review conferences and remains committed to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), in this context. Having that in mind, the EU reaffirms its commitment to the promotion, protection and fulfilment of the right of every individual to have full control over, and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality and sexual and reproductive health, free from discrimination, coercion and violence. The EU further stresses the need for universal access to quality and affordable comprehensive sexual and reproductive health information, education, including comprehensive sexuality education, and health-care services.”*

Whilst this is an external European policy on development cooperation, a reference to this paragraph was recently included in [domestic Council Conclusions on women's and girls' mental health](#), adopted December 2024, *“raising awareness of the importance of and recognize the need for universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights as identified in paragraph 34 of the New European Consensus on Development (2017) as key elements in ensuring the highest attainable standards of both physical and mental health.”*

We would additionally like to raise that the Roadmap should also recognize that **SRHR is not only a health topic, but that it sits at the intersection of health, fundamental rights and economic empowerment of women**, and that guaranteeing SRHR is **thus a precondition for reaching gender equality**. At the same time, denying access to SRHR is a form of gender-based discrimination that can amount to sexual and gender-based violence. We would therefore like to suggest not to place ‘SRHR’ under a health section, but to rather make it a **separate section** - or at least highlight the fact that SRHR sit at the intersection between health, human rights, gender equality, and the combating of sexual and gender-based violence.



We strongly encourage you to consider these aspects and trust that the Roadmap will meet the expectations of the European Parliament's in terms of SRHR.

Sincerely,

Joanna SCHEURING-WIELGUS (S&D FEMM Coordinator)

Abir AL-SAHLANI (Renew FEMM Coordinator)

Melissa CAMARA (Greens/EFA FEMM Coordinator)

Irene MONTERO & Hanna GEDIN (The Left FEMM and for "AllofUs" Coordinators)

Maria NOICHL (S&D Coordinator for "AllofUs")

Raquel GARCÍA HERMIDA-VAN DER WALLE (Renew Coordinator for "AllofUs")

Alice KUHNKE (GREENS/EFA Coordinator for "AllofUs")

Arba KOKALARI (EPP)