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[Press release](#) | 23.10.2012

## Boardroom quotas for women

### Further delay on tackling major outstanding barrier to gender equality regrettable

The European Commission today postponed a highly anticipated proposal aimed at introducing a binding EU quota for a 40% representation of women on executive boards. The Greens expressed regret at this latest delay, with Green equality spokesperson **Marije Cornelissen** said:

*"It is deeply regrettable that the resistance of some Commissioners has led to the postponement of the proposal for a boardroom quota. Internal infighting has meant we are being left to wait again for this key measure for redressing one of the major outstanding barriers to gender equality in Europe.*

*"It is 2012 but the gender representation in senior business management dates back to a bygone era. In spite of all the lip service, women are still grossly under-represented on the boards of large European companies, with the share of women in the highest decision-making bodies of the largest publically-listed companies at a mere 14%. This is not because of a shortage of qualified women, with 60% of university graduates in the EU being women, but because the voluntary approach has unfortunately failed.*

*"Binding quotas have already proven successful in addressing this equality gap in European countries and it is time we built on this success by introducing an EU-level quota. We hope today's postponement is a temporary blip and that the Commission presents a boardroom quota in the coming weeks. The Greens applaud Commissioner Reding's strong statement that she will not give up. The European Parliament has previously voted in favour of a quota and we will work to ensure it becomes reality once the legislation is proposed."*

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