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Press release | 08.03.2011

International Women's Day - EU must do more to tackle inequality

EFA press release

On International Women's Day (Tuesday 8 March) MEPs **Jill Evans** (Wales) and **Frieda Brepoels** (Flanders) are calling for more focussed action at EU level to tackle inequality and eliminate poverty.

The European Parliament in Strasbourg held a special debate to mark the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day.

MEPs discussed the ongoing need to close the gender pay gap and raise the number of women in employment. Parliamentarians also heard that 17% of all women in the EU continue to live in poverty.

Jill Evans MEP (Plaid Cymru), President of the EFA Group said:

"The European Union can and should do far more to tackle ongoing inequalities between men and women, particularly in terms of equal pay and eliminating poverty.

"As a group we will continue to support the contribution, experience and participation of women in every sphere of life - in the economy, politics, culture, peace processes and decision making."

Frieda Brepoels MEP (N-VA), Vice-President of the EFA Group said:

"Effectively tackling labour market inequalities between men and women can have a very positive effect in promoting economic growth. We know that if employment and productivity rates for women could be raised to a similar level to those of men, then we would see a substantial increase in GDP across the EU.

"This isn't simply a matter of principle, it is especially important during this time of economic hardship when promoting greater equality would bring real economic benefits."

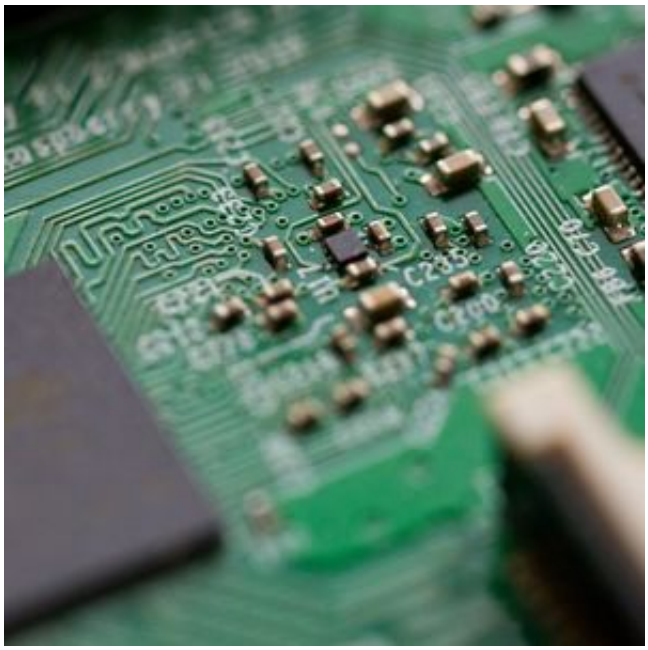
Ends Note - The European Free Alliance (EFA) draws together political parties fighting for democracy and self-determination for the stateless nations and regions of Europe.

The European Free Alliance (EFA) Group in the European Parliament includes MEPs from Scotland, Wales, Catalonia, Flanders, Corsica and Latvia, who advance the cause of Europe's stateless nations, regions and disadvantaged minorities. Greens/EFA is an alliance of different parties from different Member States. Press statements on this website do not necessarily bind all parties. The Group respects the rights of minorities within it to take a separate line from the majority.

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