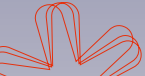
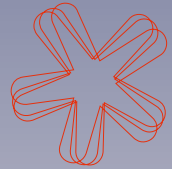
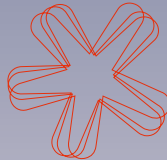
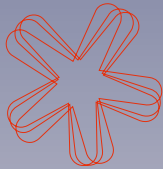
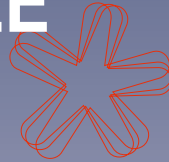
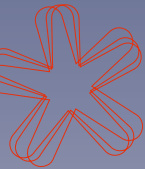
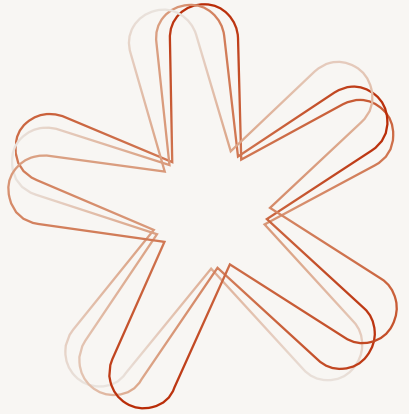


# THE **NEXT** GENERATION IS **FEMALE**







THE **NEXT**  
**GENERATION**  
IS **FEMALE**

## Mission statement

The Network “The Next Generation is Female” (subsequently “The Network”) is a forward-looking dialogue platform among the female GAC Ministers/State Secretaries.

The core members of The Network include all current female GAC Ministers/State Secretaries as well as founding members<sup>1</sup>, independent of their current position. The objective of The Network is to strengthen the role and visibility of women in politics, business and society, as well as to increase the participation of women in decision-making processes at all levels.

The Network should meet on a regular basis, at least once per semester, to exchange ideas and to discuss relevant EU issues, included in the GAC agenda, from a female perspective. The focus should lie on female competencies in addressing the multifaceted challenges confronting Europe, from geopolitical tensions and economic disparities to social inequalities and climate change, as well as to develop strategic long-term solutions to foster a more resilient, democratic and prosperous Europe.

<sup>1</sup> Founding members are: Nicola Beer, Laurence Boone, Irena Dimitrova, Karoline Edtstadler, Daniela Grigore-Gîțman, Dominique Hasler, Zanda Kalniņa-Lukaševica, Hadja Lahbib, Anna Lührmann, Eva Maydell, Andreja Metelko-Zgombić, Jovita Neliupšienė, Velislava Petrova, Gunda Reire, Karolina Rudzińska, Elena Shekerletova, Tytti Tuppurainen, Judit Varga.

Beyond that, The Network should organize ad-hoc meetings, publish collective Op-eds or issue statements to address acute situations, as well as joint trips to third countries to reinforce common EU messages and give women and girls more visibility.

Participation in the meetings, joint trips or statements should be kept flexible, for example also allowing representatives of the EEA, candidate countries or European Institutions to participate, depending on the topic.

In the end, we need the female and male perspective to sustainably address the challenges Europe is facing. Therefore, we need equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels and greater consideration of women's realities in politics, business and society.

## Who is who – Founding members



**Karoline  
Edtstadler**  
Austria



**Hadja Lahbib**  
Belgium



**Irena  
Dimitrova**  
Bulgaria



**Velislava  
Petrova**  
Bulgaria



**Eva Maydell**  
Bulgaria



**Elena  
Shekerletova**  
Bulgaria



**Andreja  
Metelko-Zgombić**  
Croatia



**Laurence  
Boone**  
France



**Tytti  
Tuppurainen**  
Finland



**Nicola Beer**  
Germany



**Anna  
Lührmann**  
Germany



**Judit Varga**  
Hungary



**Zanda Kalniņa-  
Lukaševica**  
Latvia



**Gunda Reire**  
Latvia



**Dominique  
Hasler**  
Liechtenstein



**Jovita  
Neliupšienė**  
Lithuania



**Karolina  
Rudzińska**  
Poland



**Daniela Gîțman**  
Romania

Federal Chancellery  
Republic of Austria

THE NEXT  
GENERATION  
IS FEMALE

CONFERENCE  
SALZBURG





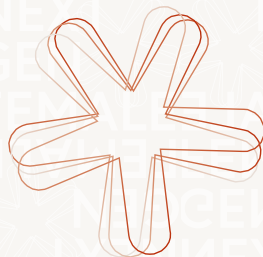
Official start of the initiative  
“The Next Generation is Female”  
in Salzburg, August 2022



# Declaration on women's rights in Iran and beyond

Declaration by female Ministers and State Secretaries for European Affairs,  
a Vice President and a Member of the European Parliament on Women's rights  
in Iran and beyond

September 28, 2022



**Declaration by:**

**Nicola Beer**

*Vice-President of the European Parliament*

**Laurence Boone**

*Minister of State for Europe (France)*

**Karoline Edtstadler**

*Minister for the EU and Constitution  
(Austria)*

**Daniela Gîțman**

*Secretary of State for European Affairs  
(Romania)*

**Dominique Hasler**

*Minister of Foreign Affairs, Education and  
Sport (Liechtenstein)*

**Zanda Kalniņa-Lukaševica**

*Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry  
of Foreign Affairs (Latvia)*

**Hadja Lahbib**

*Minister of Foreign Affairs, European  
Affairs and Foreign Trade and the Federal  
Cultural Institutions (Belgium)*

**Anna Lührmann**

*Minister of State for Europe and Climate  
(Germany)*

**Eva Maydell**

*Member of the European Parliament*

**Andreja Metelko-Zgombić**

*State Secretary for Europe (Croatia)*

**Jovita Neliupšienė**

*Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs  
(Lithuania)*

**Tytti Tuppurainen**

*Minister for European Affairs and  
Ownership Steering (Finland)*

**Judit Varga**

*Minister of Justice (Hungary)*

We, as Women and Ministers and State Secretaries for European Affairs, Vice President and Member of the European Parliament want to express our deepest indignation after the death of Mahsa Amini, 22 years, following her arrest by the Iranian police for non-compliance with the mandatory dress code consisting in the wearing of a hijab or foulard on all her hair.

We take note of the statement of the President of Iran that her death will be investigated. In this regard, we expect a thorough investigation. Any proved responsible for her death has to be held accountable.

We also reiterate our strong support for the fundamental right to assemble and protest. We disapprove the violent crackdown which was opposed to the courageous demonstrations, which have

taken place following this dramatic event. As clearly stated in the Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the EU, we urge the Iranian authorities to strictly abide by the principles enshrined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Iran is a party. Therefore, we expect Iran to immediately stop the violent crackdown on protests and ensure Internet access, as well as the free flow of information. We also expect Iran to clarify the number of deaths and arrested during the demonstrations, release all non-violent protestors and provide due process to all detainees. We commit ourselves, as a group of European women in positions of political responsibility, to use all our energy to act in favor of a greater protection of women's rights.

We cannot stand that a woman loses her life because of how she chooses to dress.



## Declaration on women's rights in Iran and beyond

We cannot either tolerate that so many women today cannot freely decide on their appearance, move, choose, study, undertake – just like men.

This aspiration to equality between women and men has no borders.

This is why our action will be threefold:

Firstly, we will act so that the EU law is fully respected, beginning with Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union, which advocates the values of human dignity, freedom and democracy – and Article 23 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union - proclaiming equality between women and men in all areas, including employment, work and pay. We will also work to ensure that all its legal extensions get adopted.

Secondly, we will support actions within and outside the European Union to protect and promote women's rights. We will strive to ensure that all girls and women can exert fully and unhindered their power of emancipation and their right to freedom.

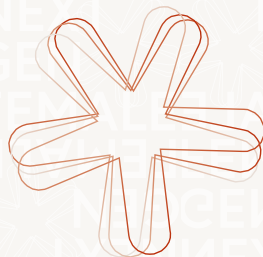
Thirdly, we will support all measures to prevent and counteract violations of women's rights, including, but not limited to, the global human rights sanctions regime. We will also aim to promote a wider adherence to measures aimed at preventing and suppressing violence against women.

For Iran, for Ukraine, for Afghanistan, for Europe and everywhere else, we will remain in solidarity with all those who have the most genuine dream: to be free.

# Declaration on the occasion of Europe Day

Joint Statement by Female Ministers and State Secretaries for European Affairs  
("The Next Generation is Female")

May, 2024



**Karoline Edtstadler**

*Minister for the EU and Constitution  
(Austria)*

**Hadja Lahbib**

*Minister of Foreign and European Affairs  
(Belgium)*

**Andreja Metelko-Zgombić**

*State Secretary for Europe (Croatia)*

**Marilena Raouna**

*Deputy Minister for European Affairs  
(Cyprus)*

**Anna Lührmann**

*Minister of State for Europe (Germany)*

**Alexandra Papadopoulou**

*Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs  
(Greece)*

**Jennifer Carroll MacNeill**

*Minister of State for European Affairs  
& Defence (Ireland)*

**Baiba Braže**

*Minister for Foreign Affairs (Latvia)*

**Hanke Bruins Slot**

*Minister of Foreign Affairs (Netherlands)*

**Inês Domingos**

*Secretary of State for European Affairs  
(Portugal)*

**Daniela Gîțman**

*Secretary of State for European Affairs  
(Romania)*

**Jessika Roswall**

*Minister for EU Affairs (Sweden)*

We, as Women and Ministers and State Secretaries for European Affairs, would like to issue the following statement on the occasion of Europe Day.

One month ahead of the European elections and 20 years after the largest round of EU enlargement, we see it as our duty to remind ourselves of how our countries and their citizens have benefited from EU membership over the past years and decades and to provide a vision on how we can shape our common future to the benefit of all!

The EU has been a driver for peace and prosperity:  
The idea of making war materially impossible, with the creation of the European Coal and Steel Community over 70 years ago, still forms the foundational pillar of the EU as we know it today.

A look at our neighbourhood which is torn by conflicts and crises should remind us of this today. The EU has delivered decades of stability and prosperity, while promoting our values such as democracy, human rights and the rule of law across the globe.

The largest single market in the world, the EU has brought us very concrete benefits as a society, as an economy and as individuals – without sacrificing our national identities. As EU citizens, we have the freedom to live, study, work and do business anywhere in the EU.

Over the past years, the EU has been confronted with many crises from which it has emerged a stronger and a more united Union. Looking ahead, we have to continue working towards a strong and secure, a prosperous and competitive as





## Declaration on the occasion of Europe Day

well as a free and democratic Europe in a changing world.

To achieve this, we have to strengthen the EU's resilience and long-term competitiveness, further implement the green and digital transformation, facilitate cohesion, and promote an innovation- and business-friendly environment by reducing bureaucratic burden for our companies. Moreover, a comprehensive approach to migration, strategic action on security and defence, coherent external action, a well-prepared enlargement as well as fostering the rule of law is needed.

The challenges we face – be it the consequences of the on-going Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, the crisis in the Middle East, illegal migration or the climate crisis – do not know borders. We can only address these

challenges with common answers at the European level, in full solidarity and unity. The recourse to purely national solutions is an empty promise with no prospect of success.

Today, we have to be very clear that we need the female and the male perspective and a strong commitment by all to work together at European level – with strong and determined female voices that act as the engine for a strong, secure, inclusive, sustainable and prosperous Europe.

So that we remain united in diversity!

# Projects of the initiative

## “The Next Generation is Female” (NGIF)

**Conference in Salzburg –  
Official start of the initiative** August 2022

**Trip to Ukraine** November 2022

**Trip to Moldova** March 2023

**Trip to Budapest** September 2023

**Trip to Bosnia and Herzegovina**  
October 2023

**Meeting on the margins of the  
Munich Security Conference**  
February 2023 and 2024

**Declaration on women’s rights in Iran  
and beyond** September 2022

**Declaration on the occasion  
of Europe Day** May 2024

**Meeting at the Europa Forum Wachau  
in Lower Austria** June 2024

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+43 1 531 15-0

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