### Women and men in decision-making: highlights (First quarter 2014)

The latest update of the European Commission's database on women and men in decision-making was completed in February 2014. It includes a quarterly update of data on political decision-making at European and national levels, and at regional level where elections have been held. The data were collected between 13 and 26 February 2014, and reflect changes since the last update in November 2013.

Selected developments in terms of gender balance include:

National parliaments

* There were no parliamentary elections between November 2013 and February 2014; the share of women members of the **single/lower houses of national parliaments** in the EU-28 thus remains at 27%.
* However, the average share of women in **upper houses of parliament** (where relevant) increased slightly and reached 25% (+1pp), mainly due to a significant increase in the number women in the Bundesrat in **Germany** (from 29% to 39%, +10pp).

National governments

* The share of women in national governments has increased slightly to 28% (+1pp) for **senior ministers** and to 26% (+2pp) for **junior ministers**. New government appointments and reshuffles have triggered positive changes in a number of Member States.
* In the **Czech Republic** the proportion of women senior ministers increased from 7% to 18% and in **Germany** it reached 38% (+5pp).
* In **Latvia** the Cabinet of Ministers now includes 36% women (+13pp) and on 22nd January 2014, Laimdota Straujuma became the country’s first female prime minister, joining three other women currently leading governments around the EU.
* Significant progress towards gender balance in government occurred in **Italy**, where the share of female senior ministers increased from 29% to almost parity (47%) in the new government appointed on 24 February.
* Government reshuffles have also had a positive impact on the proportion of women in the cabinet in **Estonia** (from 8% to 15%) and **Slovenia** (from 21% to 25%).
* In contrast, the share of female senior ministers decreased following the appointments of new governments in **Denmark** (40%, down 5pp) and in **Austria** (29% down from 43%).

Regions

* Regional elections held in **Denmark** resulted in a higher share of female councillors (from 35% to 38% across the country as a whole). Significant positive changes were observed in two regions: Sjælland (from 32% to 41%) and Nordjylland, where women now slightly outnumber men in the regional assembly (54%, +17pp).
* In **Italy**,the regional assembly of Basilicata is no longer an entirely male body with women now accounting for 4% of members.
* At **EU level,** the share of women amongst presidents and members of regional assemblies remain at 14% and 32% respectively.