



Council of the
European Union

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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Chairmanship of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) - Request by the Belgian Delegation for an AOB item

Delegations will find in the annex a note from the Belgian Delegations concerning the chairmanship of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). The topic will be included as an “Any other business” item on the agenda for the Foreign Affairs Council on 18 March 2024.

**AOB item requested by Belgium for the FAC
(18 March 2024)**

- Belgium would like to add an AOB Point on the Chairmanship of the Commission on the Status of Women.
- The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which in turn is a principal body of the United Nations. The CSW has 45 members, who are elected by ECOSOC for a mandate of 4 years. This is usually done by acclamation, as each regional group nominates as many candidates as there are seats available.
- As for any UN meeting, a Bureau should be set up for CSW, consisting of a Chairman and 4 Vice-Presidents. After the conclusion of the current, 68th session of the CSW, on Friday 22 March 2024, the 69th session of the CSW will open with the appointment of the new Bureau as the only item on the agenda. The Chairmanship of CSW rotates according to geographical group, with the chairmanship for the CSW in 2025 going to the Asian group. Bangladesh had already applied for the position in April 2023, but on February 15, 2024, Saudi-Arabia announced its candidacy, whereupon Bangladesh withdrew its candidacy.
- Belgium would like to draw attention to the fact that Saudi Arabia is the only candidate within the Asian group to become the chair of the 69th session of the CSW, so during the symbolic Beijing +30 session in 2025. As Bangladesh withdrew its candidacy, the decision about the composition of the Bureau will in principle be taken by acclamation by CSW on the 22nd of March – unless a UN member state taking part in the 69th session asks for a secret ballot.