

On 15 Dec 2009, the Helsinki Group on Women and Science sent the President of the Commission a Position Paper on gender equality in science, titled Gender and Research Beyond 2009, which included an invitation to the European Commission to: *consider this Position Paper as the basis for the development of a broad-based strategy document, containing relevant actions, which could be adopted by the Commission and implemented by the Member States and Associated Countries.* There was also a call for the Commission to: *fund a media campaign to raise awareness of the women in science issue in particular, and the need for gender equality in research in general.*

Therefore, the Helsinki Group on Women and Science believes that the 2020 Strategy should include the important topic of gender equality in research, "for the benefit of scientific and technological research in the European Research Area".

*Note: The Helsinki Group on Women in Science is a group of national representatives (policy makers and gender experts) from the 27 EU Member States and the states associated to the Framework Programme. The Group was established by the European Commission in 1999 and meets twice annually for a dialogue with the Commission on ways to address the underrepresentation of women at all levels in scientific research, and also to exchange national good practice on promoting gender equality in research.*

Yours sincerely,

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(on behalf of the members of the Helsinki Group on Women and Science)

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