



European network of legal experts in gender equality and non-discrimination

NEWS REPORT

Country:	Italy
Title:	Equality between men and women within the reform of the Constitution
Date:	17 May 2016
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<u>Context</u>	
Issue at stake:	The principle of equality in the ruling of political and administrative elections
Ground of discrimination:	Sex
Source:	Constitutional law
Field:	Other
Applicable law:	Constitutional Act published in OJ N. 88 of 15 April 2016

Content

Law development: A wide reform of the Constitution, which mainly regards Parliament and Local Bodies, has been approved. The reform also provides an amendment to Article 55 of the Constitution, stating that "The ruling of the elections of the two Chambers of Parliament shall promote gender balance in political representation". Another amendment, to Article 122, entitles national legislation to fix the framework aimed at assuring gender balance in political representation at a regional level. It is worth noting that the whole reform is still "on condition" as it will soon be submitted to a confirmative referendum asked by at least a fifth of the members of Parliament.

Key points of analysis: Recent legislation, both at national and regional level, already provided for the promotion of the principle of gender equality in politics. Nevertheless, the express acknowledgment of this principle as a fundamental one would mark a very important step forward in the achievement of substantial equality in this field.

Internet link source:

Constitutional Act of 15 April 2016, published in OJ N. 88 of 15 April 2016, file:///Users/Anna/Downloads/20160415_088.pdf, accessed 28 April 2016.