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The first feminist party in history stand in the European Parliament election 2009!

The Feminist Initiative will stand in the European Parliament election 2009, claiming that lack of gender equality and social reforms limit women's possibility of an economically self-supporting life. The Feminist Initiative make an international call today for support and start the new campaign *Feministsupport.com!*

Kirsti Kolthoff now leaves her position as president of European Women's Lobby (EWL) and join The Feminist Initiative today. "We can see a development where both Christian and Muslim fundamentalists nestle themselves into politics", she says, "and the consequences are reforms that limit women's freedoms and rights. A secular state form must be the basis for all constitutional work in the EU! In order to see changes happen I would like to see many feminists getting into the political power in EU so that these problems are taken seriously on the EU agenda! I take my responsibility."

"It's time for the European Parliament taking the question of gender equality to the top of the agenda", says Gudrun Schyman, spokesperson of Feminist Initiative. "When women are forced to choose between children and work, many decide against children. A shrinking population is a growing problem in the EU. The solution is equality. What's needed are social reforms, modern family legislation, expanded preschool resources, and social elderly care."

In September 2006, Feminist Initiative stood in the election in Sweden with a lot of support and donations from Jane Fonda, Eve Ensler, Lillian Hall-French and Rada Boric among others.

"This time we have developed a feminist political action for an equal European Union, an action that put women and minorities rights and opportunities on top of the political agenda", says Gudrun Schyman. If a lot of people join our campaign and visit the website feministsupport.com we can make it: Make herstory!

More information:

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Please visit www.feministsupport.com (English, Francais, Espanol, Deutch, Swedish)

The Swedish Feminist Initiative's site www.feministisktinitiativ.se

Facts about Kirsti Kolthoff

Kolthoff is one nominated candidate for Feminist Initiative in the European Parliament election 2009.

Kirsti Kolthoff resign now after many years in the leadership and president of the European Women's Lobby (EWL). EWL is with its 2000 member organizations from 30 different European countries, the largest women's organization in Europe.

Kirsti Kolthoff also has a position in the board of the *Women's International League for Peace and Freedom* (IKFF) and has worked with the building of the organization *Operation in 1325* to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1325:2000.

Kolthoff has also been international Vice President of the *Women's International League for Peace and Freedom* (WILPF) with consultative status at the United Nations at it's representatative at the ILO (International Labour Organisation) during many years.

Facts about Gudrun Schyman

Gudrun Schyman is 60 years old and one of two spokesperson of Feminist Initiative since 2005. She's also one nominated candidate for Feminist Initiative in the European Parliament election 2009.

Schyman was active in the Left Party or many years, sat in Parliament in 1988-2006 and worked for ten years as party leader. Schyman is often referenced as one of the most skilful politicians in Sweden and is frequently seen in different media contexts.

Now, Gudrun is a "freelance feminist" and is in addition to opinion leaders also frequently employed as a lecturer.

She has been active in the People's Campaign against nuclear power and the peace movement.

Website: www.schyman.se