



# LOBBY EUROPEEN DES FEMMES EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY

Brussels, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2009

To Nelly Maes, President of the European Free Alliance (EFA)

Dear President,

**RE: EWL previous communication of 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2008 on candidates' lists for the 2009 European elections and women's equal representation**

I am writing to you again in the context of the European Women's Lobby (EWL) 50/50 Campaign for Democracy to follow up on our letter dated 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2008, regarding questions about the European Free Alliance's measures to ensure gender equality with regards to the upcoming European election; please find this letter enclosed for your convenience.

We have not yet received an answer from you on our inquiries. However, we would like to inform our member organizations about the actions of different political parties in relation to the candidate lists for the 2009 European Elections and women's equal representation. We will include the letters sent to the European parties on our Campaign website, <http://www.5050democracy.eu/>, as well as the answers received.

I would also like to inform you that in the coming months, we will be working on a "Gender Audit" of political parties and candidate lists in view of the European elections. The aim of the Audit will be to assess the political parties' commitment to gender equality in terms of women's presence on the candidate list and of the program. The audit will provide a tool for us to encourage voters to be involved in European politics and to vote for political parties which have equality between women and men as a priority.

**I would therefore kindly like to ask you to send us the candidate lists and political programs of all your member parties when they are available.** The Campaign is endorsed by a number of well known personalities from across Europe and across political ideologies, such as European Commission President José Manuel Barroso, European Commission Vice President Margot Wallström, President of the Slovenian Republic Danilo Türk, former Irish President Mary Robinson, Nobel Prize winner Orhan Pamuk, and the former President of the European Parliament Simone Veil. **We very much hope that you as the President of the European Free Alliance will personally endorse the Campaign by filling the enclosed form that we are here sending anew.**

Thank you very much in advance for your cooperation and looking forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Myria Vassiliadou

Secretary General of the European Women's Lobby

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