

# **“The European Care Strategy: Responding to challenges faced by women in times of (post-)pandemic?”**

**30 November 2022**

**Input from Fr. Manuel (5 minutes)  
At 10:00 am, in the BCR**

- Welcome to this event organised by FAFCE and COMECE. We are happy to host you in our premises.
- Welcome also to our online participants who are based in Europe and beyond and could not join us in person today.
- A warm welcome to all our speakers, and in particular Dr. Dobrochna Bach-Golecka, from the University of Warsaw, who travelled specifically to be here with us in person today. We are very happy to have you here with us!
- During the pandemic, and coinciding with the **International Women's Day 2021**, the Vatican has taken a strong interest in women, and has published a cross-cutting Executive Summary of the Vatican Covid-19 Commission entitled "[Women in the COVID-19: Disproportionately affected and protagonists of regeneration](#)". Perhaps Dr. Dolores Sanchez who is connected remotely will tell us more about this later.
- Today, we dedicate our event to Women, as many of them have been put in the frontline during the pandemic, acting as formal or informal carers, and as essential workers.
- A main focus of our conference will be on "**The European Care Strategy**". It is based on one communication and two proposals for Council Recommendations on [early childhood education and care](#), and on the [access to long-term care](#). It thus offers us many elements to exchange on today, both on the work-life balance of parents, the access to childcare services, and the support to the elderly with the access to long-term care services.
- The idea behind this conference is to learn from concrete experiences of women, and to initiate positive changes in this recovery time, with a key focus on the living conditions of women:
  - How did the pandemic affect their careers and personal lives?
  - What specific challenges are women facing today?
  - How is the European Care Strategy answering to their needs?
  - And what could the European Institutions still be doing in the future?
- This is a vast programme, and I propose to get started with it now. Thanks again for your participation. Friederike, please, the floor is yours.