

## **Workshop Gender and Campaigning**

The workshop was introduced by Jolein Baidenmann, saying that currently there is a gender gap. **Evin Incir**, Secretary General of IUSY, told that: "It's a man world, they're deciding, that's why issues that are close to men are addressed". She also mentioned "we need more women to be elected".

**Marije Laffeber**, Deputy Secretary General of the PES, said the general trend is that the "gender gap is growing". "In the years to come we have to mobilise women and youth to vote for our [progressive and social democratic] parties". She underlined that "we have to have women policies integrated in our programs". She concluded by saying that "you can only make changes if you have both men and women on board".

**Bahia Amra**, of the Palestinian National Initiative (PNI), explained that in Palestine "women do vote, but a lot of them vote for Hamas". Also there is "a lack of awareness and education and women are voting what their men are saying".

**Jan Royal**, Vice-President of the PES and leader of the opposition in the House of Lords in Great Britain, said that "in 2010 9 million women did not vote, therefore we had a women campaign". "We went all over the country with a pink bus, to places where women are and talked to them on the reality of their lives", she illustrated. "We need to find a new way of politics, to enthuse women and people, to let them know that politics is important", she concluded.

There was an interesting discussion on how we can be equal in politics and how we can empower women. It was said that we have to ask women about their needs and involve them. Also, education and citizenship were mentioned as vital aspects. It was also mentioned that media plays an important role and women are targeted differently than men. "We have to ensure that media is on our [women] side". "If we all work together, we can make it, and we will win, we must win", was one of the concluding remarks.