

Caldera: Equality is the motor of change that must fuel the new sustainable development model

The Vice President and head of IDEAS Foundation, Jesús Caldera, declared today, during the conclusion of the symposium on “Equality and Innovation: two main priorities of the Spanish Presidency of the EU 2010”, that equality is the motor of change that must fuel the new development model, which must be both social and environmentally sustainable.

The Vice President of IDEAS related equality to productivity, pointing out that countries with the best rates of labour productivity are, precisely, those leading in Equality issues regarding opportunities for women and men.

Before Caldera, the Minister of Equality, Bibiana Aído, said that sustainability must be the model of economic growth in Europe, a model “based on people and not on speculation that serves present needs without threatening those of future generations”.

According to Aído, there must be three types of sustainability: economic, environmental, with a clear commitment to new technologies and against climate change, and social. Precisely, in order to make this social sustainability real, Aído pointed out the need for a great European pact for social cohesion, where the principle of equality between women and men prevails.

In this sense, Aído condemned the fact that, while 60% of European women are qualified, this does not show on the job market, where there is still a salary gap of 17%, women are still suffering from stereotypes that consign them to specific professions and keep them away from taking decisions.

Finally, the Minister of Equality reiterated her commitment she announced previously that, during the Spanish Presidency of the UE, she will promote the creation of a European Observatory against Gender Violence, in order to handle common data and statistics, and the establishment of a European minimum standard to protect battered women.