Educational and occupational mobility of women in the EU

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The Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality adopted a report by Licia RONZULLI (EPP, IT) on educational and occupational mobility of women in the EU.

The Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, in exercising its prerogatives as an associated committee in accordance with Article 50 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, was also consulted for an opinion on this report.

The report begins by emphasising the need to **increase awareness of the situation of women of all age groups in the context of the EU's policies** on education, social integration, means to balance family and working life, migration and employment, poverty, health care and in its social protection policies.

Noting the fact that **the right to live and work in another country** of the European Union **is one of the Union's fundamental freedoms guaranteed** to European Union citizens by the Treaty on European Union, the report points out that workers' mobility and educational mobility help to deepen people's **attachment to their European citizenship** and, at the same time, constitute a European principle for achieving cohesion and solidarity across the EU.

The report calls on the **Member States** to:

- include provisions to ensure **transparency and awareness in the area of women's rights** and the rights of their family members in respect of mobility when designing their national strategies and reform programmes;
- collect and analyse data on the difficulties, scale and structure of women's mobility, to draw attention to and promote the benefits of employment mobility on their national markets and the benefits of educational and employment mobility in foreign countries;
- step up efforts and cooperation with special emphasis on access to information and advice to combat the **human trafficking** carried out by international networks that recruit workers;
- work together to find solutions to prevent or compensate for the effects that occupational mobility has on some Member States in certain areas (such as the mobility of medical personnel, who are predominantly women);
- ensure **reciprocal recognition of diplomas and professional qualifications** and facilitate the simplification of recognition procedures;
- make **pay trends more transparent**, so as to avert continuing or widening pay gaps, including their implications for the accumulation of pensions in the Member State of origin and the host Member State;
- **promote vocations and professions** requiring scientific, technical, engineering and mathematical skills among women from an early age, for better employability and to assist the transition between education, professional training and employment.

The **Commission** is invited to:

- monitor and report regularly on how EU funds focusing on education and training, occupational and educational mobility and on labour market participation are being taken up;

- find a means of integrating the education acquired through youth mobility with jobs matching that education, in order to increase the efficiency of the mobility process in both its educational phase and its occupational phase;
- broaden and enhance the scope of projects designed to increase the professional mobility of women;
- support the reallocation of adequate financial resources to programmes that promote women's employment and better education for disadvantaged groups.

Members **call on the Commission and on the Member States** to:

- improve the detection and elimination of the violations of women's rights in the labour market and effectively punish these violations;
- take measures to prevent the feminisation of poverty by promoting employment and the spirit of enterprise among women;
- pay special attention to the problem of poverty among older women caused by the fact that they receive smaller pensions;
- develop policies, in cooperation with social partners to eradicate the gender pay gap, that focus on the integration of women in the labour market and promote equal opportunities for mobility;
- combat gender stereotyping;
- implement swiftly the youth employment package with a view to fostering early educational and occupational mobility of young women.