Development cooperation, women participation: integration of gender issues

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In adopting the report by Karin JUNKER (PSE, D), the committee called on the European Union to integrate equal rights for men and women in all measures implemented in the context of development cooperation. This involved: improving living conditions for women, involving women in projects concerning food security, urban renewal, the development of health facilities, access to education and water supplies, providing women with professional skills and preserving traditional women's activities. The committee also called on the European Union to devote more of the appropriations allocated to operational projects under development cooperation to specific actions in favour of women. It called for support to be given to measures aimed at combating the main areas of inequality between the sexes, in particular, access to resources and services and involvement in the political and social decision-making processes. It wanted backing for plans to ensure equality between men and women in legislation and administration. Finally, it believed that when supply contracts were being awarded, priority should be given - where tenders were of equal quality - to the recipient countries and developing countries in the same region.