Development cooperation, women participation: integration of gender issues

1997/0151(SYN) - 21/07/1998

The Committee adopted a recommendation at second reading by Karin JUNKER (PES, D) calling for specific references to funding for an EU programme to promote women in development cooperation projects to be deleted. Instead the committee calls on the Union to integrate equal opportunities for women and men into all its development cooperation measures. This means improving living conditions for women, involving them in projects to do with 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 is calling 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 process. It wants backing for plans to ensure equality between men and women in legislation and administration. It wishes to have priority given to the role of women in crisis prevention, emergency operations, human rights, democratisation, trade and reproductive health and rights. In addition, it believes that, when supply contracts are being awarded, priority should be given - where tenders are of equal quality - to the recipient countries and developing countries in the same region.