The impact of unemployment on the situation of women

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The rapporteur, Elena MARINUCCI, is calling for a whole series of measures to enable women to take their place on the labour market. Firstly, she wants a better definition of part-time working, which can make an effective contribution to combatting unemployment if part-time work is chosen voluntarily, if the workers in question are not subject to rigid working hours and if there is no reduction in their social protection and career prospects. She calls on the Commission, should the social partners fail to reach an agreement on this matter, to bring forward legislation covering all atypical employment, including homework and teleworking, in which women predominate. On the legal front, the rapporteur calls once more for social protection entitlements to be individualised, a framework directive on childcare services in the Member States, rules on parental leave and measures which make the taking up of parental leave attractive to both men and women, with proper payment for the period and the maintenance of social security rights. Lastly, she suggests that those who leave the labour market to bring up children or look after elderly dependants should be credited with contributions for the duration of their career break.