Equal opportunities between women and men: employment, vocational training, working conditions

2000/0142(COD) - 16/10/2001

The committee adopted the report by Heidi HAUTALA (Greens/EFA, FIN) amending the Council's common position under the codecision procedure (2nd reading). Council had only taken on board a few of Parliament's first reading amendments, in some cases in a greatly diluted form. While emphasising that there was no point in re-examining the main issues, the rapporteur was keen to find a compromise to ensure that the new directive was adopted under the Belgian presidency. The committee therefore proposed new amendments to introduce clear definitions of different types of discrimination. It also called for positive measures at the workplace as well as preventive measures against harassment. The report underlined the importance of maternity and paternity rights and said that the Member States should designate bodies responsible for monitoring the implementation of the principle of equal treatment and for receiving, examining and following up complaints of discrimination.