Balanced participation of women and men in decision-making process (Council Recommendation 96/694)

1995/0308(CNS) - 29/11/1995 - Legislative proposal

- OBJECTIVE: the aim of the recommendation is to encourage Member States to consider the question of a balanced representation of men and women in decision-making in all sectors (political, social, economic and cultural) and in all its different forms (places and bodies where decisions are taken) and also to adopt a comprehensive and integrated strategy designed to promote such a balance. - SUBSTANCE: It was recommended that the Member States: * adopt a comprehensive strategy to promote the balanced representation of men and women in decision-making and to introduce suitable legislative and regulatory measures, and incentives, to achieve this; * provide for measures: . in education and training: to alert all levels of education to the role and contribution of women and the sharing of professional and family responsibilities, . in the media sector: to ensure that advertisements do not reinforce the unfair stereotyping of women, . in publicity campaigns: to alert public opinion to the importance of a more balanced society, . to encourage the social partners, political groups, associations, NGOs and the media to develop equal opportunities plans; * in the information sector: . to promote the publication of statistics illustrating how women are represented in the economy and in social and cultural life, . to develop studies on the legal, social and cultural obstacles barring the access of women to strategic decision-making posts, . to support initiatives for the dissemination of good practice in this area, * to take measures designed to ensure a fairer representation of women in decision-making posts through: . the promotion of a more balanced participation at all levels of government, . "mentorship actions" designed to encourage a more balanced political representation at European, national, regional and local level (particularly in committees, working groups, etc.), . equal opportunities plans for the public sector (especially on competition committees and selection boards), . the implementation of incentives in the private sector to increase the presence of women at all levels of decision-making, . the adoption by the media of measures to promote a balanced participation on executive bodies. The Commission is therefore called on: - to step up its efforts to alert public opinion and promote pilot projects aimed at a more balanced participation of women in decision-making, - to promote the exchange of experience and the evaluation of policies which are designed to achieve this objective, - to present a report to the Council within 3 years of the adoption of the recommendation on progress achieved in its implementation.