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

1995/0308(CNS) - 30/05/1996 - Modified legislative proposal

In its amended proposal, the Commission took over only 9 of the 36 amendments adopted by Parliament in the House, namely those seeking to strengthen or widen the scope of the initial proposal as regards: - the importance of reconciling family and working life, - the close links between the decision-making process and women's involvement in the labour market as well as the necessary "equal opportunities" component to be incorporated into all policies, - the need to launch awareness campaigns aimed at the general public (especially at election times), - monitoring and assessing the objectives of the recommendation (not least with a view to achieving equal representation of women and men in the political sphere, particularly by means of research into voting systems and their effect on women's representation), - the promotion of entrepreneurial spirit in women. The rejected amendments: - clearly added nothing new or useful to the initial text (19 amendments including, for example, the amendment seeking to change the image of women in advertising or the amendment calling for studies on women's access to decision-making posts, and so on), - proposed very new concepts which had not yet been sufficiently developed by the Commission or the Member States (6 amendments including those calling for a change of attitude with regard to women in the public and private sectors, the appointment of "equality" ombudspersons to oversee the implementation of equal opportunities legislation, public contracts for which only women could tender, and access to every judicial office for women), - related to areas in which the Commission had a right of initiative (amendment on the measures to be taken by the Community institutions to promote equal opportunities) or called on the Commission to engage in activities outside its sphere of responsibility (amendment calling for a change in the Member States' electoral systems).