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

1995/0308(CNS) - 24/05/1996 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

In adopting the report by Mrs Irene CREPAZ (PSE, A), Parliament approved the proposal for a recommendation on the balanced participation of women and men in decision-making, with the following amendments: - the recommendation must be seen primarily as a platform for action to be undertaken in this area, the central objective being the establishment of democracy based on equality and full participation by women in decision-making; - the proposed measures must go hand in hand with an awareness both of the particular obstacles which women encounter and the special qualities they bring to society. In this respect, particular attention must be paid to the continuing segregation in the labour market, in the decision-making process, and even within the Community institutions; - there must be a change in attitude on the part of all those involved in the public and private domains and in economic, political and family life in order to improve the image of women. More specifically, pointing out that the governments of the Member States had pledged in Beijing to adapt their electoral systems with a view to achieving a better political representation of women, Parliament called for: - legislative, regulatory and administrative measures to be taken to promote balanced participation by women and men in the decision-making process at all levels of political, economic and cultural life, - women to assume greater responsibility in key positions in political life, - the countries of the Union to ensure that the principles of balanced participation and an equal share of responsibilities between men and women was encouraged in education and training, - specific measures to be taken to counteract stereotyping and the image of women and men presented by advertising, - campaigns to be run in conjunction with elections to show the advantages for society of a balanced participation by women and men in decision-making. In this respect, Parliament called for studies to be carried out on the effects of different electoral systems on the political representation of women and for appropriate adjustments to be implemented, - "equality" ombudspersons to be appointed to oversee the implementation of equal opportunities legislation, - in the private sector, measures to be taken to improve the position of women: better integration into personnel policy, promotion of female entrepreneurship, greater access for women to the professions and the legal sphere; - at Community level, measures to be taken to set a good example.