Development cooperation, women participation: integration of gender issues

1997/0151(SYN) - 17/09/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading

Adopting the recommendation for second reading by Mrs Karin JUNKER (PSE, D), the European Parliament again called for any financial reference concerning the programme to promote women in development to be deleted. Although it did not oppose setting a sum of ECU 25 million for the period 1999-2003, it considered that this deadline should not mark the end of the programme. In Parliament's view, this sum should be an indicative financial reference amount. The European Parliament also called for gender analysis in all areas of development cooperation. It called for the Commission to be assisted in its work by an advisory committee made up of one representative per Member State and chaired by the Commission representative which, in the case of the ACP countries will be the EDF committee, in the case of the Mediterranean countries the MED committee and in the case of Asian and Latin American countries the ALA committee. On the recurrent question of comitology, it proposed that any decision relating to grants of more than ECU 2 million (and not ECU 1 million as the Council wished) should be subject to a comitology procedure. It also suggested that a senior EC steering group on the integration of gender issues should be established in order to advise on implementation and monitor the execution of this regulation. It also insisted on full information for the European Parliament. Parliament also insisted that the European Union should integrate gender mainstreaming in all its development cooperation programmes. More particularly, Parliament hoped that actions relating to the main gender disparities would be supported, particularly with regard to access to resources and basic services (education, training and health) and participation in the decision-making processes in political, social and family life. It called for priority to be given to the role of women in crisis prevention, emergency operations, human rights, democratisation, trade, health and sexual and reproductive rights. Priority should also be given under this initiative to endogenous structures that can act as a catalyst in developing local capacities. Finally, it called for priority to be given to recipient and developing countries for the award of contracts and supplies where tenders were of equal quality.