Development cooperation, women participation: integration of gender issues

1997/0151(SYN) - 19/11/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

In adopting the report by Mrs Karin JUNKER (PSE, D), the European Parliament has approved the proposal for a Regulation on integrating gender issues in development cooperation, with the following amendments: - the assistance provided must support the integration of gender issues into the Union's development cooperation policy as a whole (to this end, it suggests creating a high-level Community group for the integration of gender issues at all stages of development cooperation); - assistance should reinforce and coordinate that provided pursuant to other instruments of development cooperation, including those existing at intergovernmental and national levels; - it should also be used for analysing the status of women and their contributions to society and the family, identifying the main sources of inequality between the sexes (e.g. access to resources, participation in the decision-making process, etc.) and encouraging the building up of institutional capacities, as well as legislative or legal acts on equal rights for men and women; - beneficiaries of activities may also include public utility associations, and priority will be given to endogenous structures that can act as catalysts in strengthening local capacities. Parliament has also tabled amendments relating to the budget: appropriations will be fixed for each financial year taking account of the principles of sound management. In awarding contracts, priority will be given, where tenders are of equal quality, to those from beneficiaries and developing countries. Finally, Parliament has tabled amendments concerning the committee arrangements and transparency of measures. It also seeks to reinforce the coordination of Community measures and those implemented by Member States through an improved flow of information within the committee.