Equal opportunities between women and men: employment, vocational training, working conditions

2000/0142(COD) - 31/05/2001 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament approved the report by Mrs Heidi Anneli HAUTALA (Greens/EFA, FIN) which aims to amend the directive on equal treatment of women and men in the workplace, together with a number of amendments. In addition to amendments set out in the previous document, the Parliament proposes that a body be set up in each Member State that will be able to deal with complaints from women and represent them in cases of discrimination. Moreover, MEPs are insisting that the victims and their representatives are not subject to reprisals. Sanctions should also apply and financial compensation, as is proposed by the Commission, should only be one among many other forms of compensation. These should include, for example, the right to return to work after sacking. The Parliament also wants the Member States to bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive by 31 December 2002 at the latest or shall ensure, by that date at the latest, that management and labour introduce the requisite provisions by way of an agreement.