Women in the new information society

2003/2047(INI) - 06/11/2003 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on its-own initiative report drafted by Anna KARAMANOU (PES, GR) on women in the new information society. (Please see the summary of 10/07 /03.) The resolution was adopted by 414 votes in favour, 18 against with 49 abstentions. Parliament added that Europe continues to see the under-representation of women in science and the ICT sector and is failing to make the most of its human resources and potential. As a result the gap between Europe and the US in terms of innovation and economic competitiveness cannot be reduced. The rapid growth of ICT is universally recognised as the most important factor in the development of any nation. New technologies, in the context of globalisation, offer new opportunities, which, however, are often least accessible to women. It is of the utmost importance that due attention be paid to formulating parameters as regards the participation of women in the ICT sector, not only in the current Member States, but also in new Member States, including Bulgaria and Romania. Parliament called on the Commission and the Member States to devise policies, supported by sufficient financial resources, intended to include women - both young and old - in all sectors of the new ICT, with the objective of achieving a gender-balanced information society. The Commission and the Member States must ensure the full involvement of women in planning and decision-making on information society policies and promote the full and equal participation of women in the media, including management, programming, education, training and research.