Basic information

1996/2149(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
The need to establish a European-Union-wide campaign for zero tolerance of violence against women **Subject** 4.10.09 Women condition and rights	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
FEMM Women's Rights	ERIKSSON Marianne (GUE/NGL)	02/07/1996

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
03/10/1994	Non-legislative basic document published	B4-0047/1994	
05/09/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
14/07/1997	Vote in committee		Summary
14/07/1997	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0250/1997	
16/09/1997	Debate in Parliament		
16/09/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		
06/10/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1996/2149(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 149-p5
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	FEMM/4/08098

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document		B4-0047/1994	03/10/1994	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0250/1997 OJ C 304 06.10.1997, p. 0006	14/07/1997	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0434/1997 OJ C 304 06.10.1997, p. 0025-0055	16/09/1997	Summary

The need to establish a European-Union-wide campaign for zero tolerance of violence against women

1996/2149(INI) - 16/09/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mrs Marianne ERIKSSON (GUE/NGL, S) on violence against women, Parliament called on the Commission and the Member States of the United Nations to convert the Beijing Declaration into a Convention which was binding on all signatories and to make violence against women a criminal act. It asked the Member States of the Union to introduce specific legislation, outside criminal law in the strict sense of the term, designed to protect victims of gender-based violence and specific provisions against the harassment of women. Similarly, it stressed the importance of removing any obstacles that deterred victims from pursuing cases against their attackers. Consequently, it called on the Member States carefully to revise procedures in this field. Parliament suggested that there should be specific training for all those working with victims and that such training should be compulsory for judges presiding over cases of sexual violence. Programmes in schools aimed at enhancing awareness should also be planned to counteract behaviour which tended to regard women's bodies as objects. It called on the Commission to investigate the link between violence against women and violence against children. It called on the Member States to combat pornography, especially pornography involving children that was available on the Internet. It called on the Commission and on the Member States, in their programmes to combat violence against women, to support initiatives designed to help victims rebuild their lives, to establish 24-hour help lines for women in distress and to support the NGOs involved in this field. It called on both the Commission and the Member States to investigate the role of alcohol in violence against women. It suggested that, in serious cases, women's organizations or appropriate institutions should be allowed to take legal action when the victims were unable to take action. Parliament proposed that funds be earmarked in the Fifth Framework Programme of Research for investigation into the costs of men's violence against women (in terms of health care, housing, social services, lost days at work). Parliament urged the Council of Ministers for Justice and Home Affairs to adopt statutory provisions on immigration and asylum applications so that women who were threatened or persecuted were admitted to the EU and that those who were separated from a violent husband were not deported from the Community. It called for the incorporation of provisions on women's rights in agreements between the EU and third countries. Finally, it called for 1999 to be designated as European Year Against Violence Against Women and called on the Commission to propose a dedicated budget line for a Europe-wide campaign. This should be based on the most successful elements of national campaigns already implemented and should be based on the defence of survivors of abuse. Its main objective would be to alter attitudes in society so that zero tolerance of violence against women was achieved at individual, collective and institutional level.