Basic information

1999/2106(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Equal opportunities: women participation to the European scientific research **Subject** 3.50.06 Research staff, researchers 4.10.04 Gender equality	

Key players

European Parliament	**Committee responsible**	**Rapporteur**	**Appointed**
	FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities	MCNALLY Eryl Margaret (PSE)	02/09/1999
	Committee for opinion	**Rapporteur for opinion**	**Appointed**
	ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy	MONTFORT Elizabeth (UEN)	04/10/1999
Council of the European Union			

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
17/02/1999	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1999)0076	Summary
13/09/1999	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
25/11/1999	Vote in committee		Summary
25/11/1999	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0082/1999	
03/02/2000	Decision by Parliament	T5-0032/2000	Summary
03/02/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
20/02/2000	Debate in Parliament		
27/10/2000	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1999/2106(COS)

Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 148
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	FEMM/4/10792

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0082/1999 OJ C 296 18.10.2000, p. 0007	25/11/1999	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0032/2000 OJ C 309 27.10.2000, p. 0012-0057	03/02/2000	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1999)0076	17/02/1999	Summary

Equal opportunities: women participation to the European scientific research

1999/2106(COS) - 17/02/1999 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : to mobilise women to enrich European research and to describe what action has and will be taken by the Commission in the field of research and technological development in order to achieve this objective. CONTENT : the European Union at the service of its citizens must, in line with its general principles, set itself objectives regarding equal opportunities for men and women in the field of scientific research. Women are currently under-represented in this field: the aim is therefore to encourage women to take part in European research. Efforts will have to be made at European and Member State level in order to rectify this situation. As part of its information policy, the Commission will also seek to ensure that women are informed about the schemes and programmes intended to increase their participation in scientific research. The Commission undertakes to make significant efforts to increase women's participation in Community research programmes; the overall objective is to achieve for women at least 40% representation, on average throughout the 5th Framework Programme, in Marie Curie scholarships, advisory groups and assessment panels. Accordingly, the Commission undertakes to pursue two objectives: 1) to stimulate discussion and the sharing of experience in this field among the Member States so that action can be taken as effeactively as possible at all levels of power; 2) to develop a coherent approach towards promoting women in research financed by the Union, with the aim of significantly increasing the number of women involved in research during the period of the Fifth Framework Programme. The purpose of this communication is to describe what action has been and will be taken by the Commission in the field of research and technological development to achieve these two objectives, presenting it against the more general background of the European Union's policy on equal opportunities, on the one hand, and the action taken in the Member States, on the other. It should be noted that a very wide range of measures has been introduced at Member State level. Accordingly, action has been taken by the Commission. For instance : - discussion and sharing experience: a group of experts , a group of national civil servants and a network of women scientists; - a coherent approach within the Fifth Framework Programme; - a coordinating structure for implementing the gender and science watch system within the 5th Framework Programme. By setting up the various schemes described in this communication, the Commission is providing increased opportunities for women to take part in scientific research. However, these efforts will have been in vain unless all those concerned express their interest by working together towards this goal. The Commission will assess the measures which have been taken in accordance with this communication and will report on them to the European Parliament and the Council.

Equal opportunities: women participation to the European scientific research

1999/2106(COS) - 03/02/2000 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament approved a resolution on women and science drafted by Mrs. E. McNALLY (PES, UK). The Resolution welcomes the Commission's proposal to increase the involvement of women in programmes organised by the EU and supports the strategy of research by, for and on women as being comprehensive and constructive. It approves the aim of collating a more comprehensive set of statistics on the involvement of women in different fields of science and research and supports the Commission's efforts to produce comparable data. It calls for gender-impact studies on the implementation of the Fifth Framework Programme to be taken into account when the Sixth Framework Programme is being drawn up so as to ensure that research topics of special interest to women are given due priority. It also calls for the appointment of a large percentage of women to serve on committees that set policies, select and evaluate projects and control funds at both EU and Member State levels. It calls on the Member States: - to improve the balance between men and women when they nominate such national experts and committee members; - when granting aid, to ensure that the award criteria are clear and that grants are made in conditions of the greatest possible transparency; - to take measures which support the dissociation of attitudes to course selection from traditional gender specific role models. Among other things, it calls on the Commission: - to investigate the reasons for the discrepancy between the number of women graduating in scientific disciplines and the number who are successful in obtaining professional posts; - to promote the need for greater levels of numeracy, statistical and IT training; - to avoid where possible and to combat when necessary, the unjustified positive discrimination in favour of boys in educational and scientific policy with regard to both the world of work and higher education; - to facilitate mentoring systems within networks of women scientists; - to observe 'International Women's University of Technology and Culture' to be held as part of the Hanover Expo 2000. Lastly, it invites the Commission to consider setting up a properly resources group with responsibility for monitoring the effectiveness of mainstreaming in the work of each DG and for addressing the under-representation of women.