Basic information

2001/2144(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic) Equal opportunities for women and men in the Union. 5th annual report 2000 **Subject** 4.10.04 Gender equality	Procedure completed

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities	AVILÉS PEREA María Antonia (PPE-DE)	12/07/2001

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
02/04/2001	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2001)0179	Summary
03/09/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
26/02/2002	Vote in committee		Summary
26/02/2002	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0067/2002	
24/04/2002	Debate in Parliament		
25/04/2002	Decision by Parliament	T5-0206/2002	Summary

25/04/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
05/06/2003	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2001/2144(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/5/14968

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0067/2002	26/02/2002	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0206/2002 OJ C 131 05.06.2003, p. 0018-0158 E	25/04/2002	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2001)0179	02/04/2001	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0204/2001 OJ C 107 03.05.2002, p. 0082	15/11/2001	

Equal opportunities for women and men in the Union. 5th annual report 2000

2001/2144(COS) - 25/04/2002 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drawn up by its rapporteur Maria AVILES PEREA (EPP-ED, Spain) on equal opportunities in the EU. (Please refer to the document dated 26/02/02.) It regretted that few Member States have made efforts to integrate gender equality in their national action plans (NAPs) for 2000 and that many measures are still considered to be gender neutral. In the light of the Lisbon objectives, Member States should: - integrate the gender dimension in the employment policies covered by the first three pillars of the employment guidelines when drawing up their NAPs to implement those guidelines; - set specific objectives and adopt rules on positive action to desegregate the labour market; - introduce precise quantitative objectives and deadlines for reducing the pay gap; and - bring in comparable indicators and procedures for monitoring and assessing equal opportunities in all areas of employment. Parliament went on to suggest to the Commission that, when statistics and comparable tables are drawn up, the order in which countries are listed should go from best to worst in line with their results in the concept measures and their

consequences for gender equality, and not in alphabetical order or order of protocol. It proposed that an index of gender development in the EU could be debated. In any event, bearing in mind that only 23% of businesses in the EU are owned by women, the Commission needs to tackle this issue directly by preparing a comprehensive report including precise and comparable data which will facilitate analysis and make it possible to identify the main problems in this area. The Commission should also draw up a progress report on the integration of the equal opportunities dimension in the Structural Funds.

Equal opportunities for women and men in the Union. 5th annual report 2000

2001/2144(COS) - 02/04/2001 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : to present the Commission's annual report on equal opportunities for women and men in the European Union 2000. CONTENT : this Commission annual report to the Council, the European Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions concerns equal opportunities for women and men in the European Union 2000. In June 2000, the Commission adopted the first comprehensive Framework Strategy on Gender Equality covering all aspects of the question. In line with the integrated approach, the Strategy makes use of all existing tools and structures, while supporting the development of new ones: monitoring, indicators and benchmarking. The Strategy is accompanied by a Programme, which will provide EUR 50 Million over the next 5 years for promoting gender equality. With regard to gender mainstreaming, this commits the EU to incorporating the goal of gender equality into the full range of its activities, not just those aimed directly at promoting it. It is a central element to the Commission's new Framework Strategy. With regard to gender equality in employment, there is still a large gender pay gap and the female employment rate is still 18 points below the male rate. In response, the Lisbon European Council in March set ambitious new targets for women: most importantly, measures should br taken to increase the female employment rate to 60% by 2010 from today's 53%. The Employment strategy should play an important part in achieving that target. With regard to a gender perspective in EU human rights policies, in 2000 the Commission put forward a proposal to amend the 1976 Directive on equal treatment. In addition to other initiatives, the Commission also announced its intention to propose a new gender-equality Directive in 2002, based on Article 13 of the EC Treaty. With regard to equality in the enlargement process, under the Commission's strategy paper on enlargement, endorsed at the Nice European Council, provisional completion for negotiations on employment and social policy are scheduled for the first half of 2001 for most countries. Hungary, the Czech Republic and Lithuania appear to be the front runners in passing Community legislation on gender equality into national law. However, on the whole, the institutional capacity is not up to the task of enforcing gender legislation. While the figure on labour-market inequalities appear to paint a more optimistic picture, the political participation of women is low and significantly below the EU average. Finally, with regard to promoting a gender balance in decision-making, women are still under-represented in the EU too. Work will continue under the Strategy for gender equality. At national level, a wide variety of measures have been tried to raise female representation, with varying degrees of success. The issue of women in business is only just starting to be addressed in a systematic way. Good statistics are needed to make the glass ceiling and other obstacles more visible. A recent Commission studyfound that only 23% of businesses in the EU are owned by women.