Basic information

2003/0109(COD) COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Decision	Procedure completed
Equality women and men: promoting organisations active at European level, 2004-2005 action programme Amended by 2004/0194(COD) **Subject** 4.10.04.01 Programmes and actions for gender equality	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities	KRATSA-TSAGAROPOULOU Rodi (PPE-DE)	10/07/2003

Former committee responsible	Former rapporteur	Appointed
FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities	KRATSA-TSAGAROPOULOU Rodi (PPE-DE)	10/07/2003

Former committee for opinion	Former rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets (Associated committee)	DÜHRKOP DÜHRKOP Bárbara (PSE)	10/07/2003
CONT Budgetary Control	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN	2560	2004-02-06
Agriculture and Fisheries	2575	2004-04-21

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
27/05/2003	Legislative proposal published	COM(2003)0279	Summary
27/05/2003	Additional information		Summary
19/06/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
03/11/2003	Vote in committee, 1st reading		Summary
03/11/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A5-0396/2003	
20/11/2003	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T5-0511/2003	Summary
20/11/2003	Debate in Parliament		
15/01/2004	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(2004)0017	Summary
06/02/2004	Council position published	16185/1/2003	Summary
12/02/2004	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading		
16/03/2004	Vote in committee, 2nd reading		Summary
16/03/2004	Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	A5-0161/2004	
29/03/2004	Debate in Parliament		
30/03/2004	Decision by Parliament, 2nd reading	T5-0214/2004	Summary
21/04/2004	Act approved by Council, 2nd reading		
29/04/2004	End of procedure in Parliament		
30/04/2004	Final act signed		
30/04/2004	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2003/0109(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
Amendments and repeals	Amended by 2004/0194(COD)
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 013 Rules of Procedure EP 57_o
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	FEMM/5/20394

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A5-0396/2003	03/11/2003	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T5-0511/2003 OJ C 087 07.04.2004, p. 0408-0471 E	20/11/2003	Summary
Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading		A5-0161/2004	16/03/2004	
Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading		T5-0214/2004 OJ C 103 29.04.2004, p. 0034-0234 E	30/03/2004	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Council statement on its position	05383/2004	29/01/2004	
Council position	16185/1/2003 OJ C 095 20.04.2004, p. 0001-0007 E	06/02/2004	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2003)0279	27/05/2003	Summary
Modified legislative proposal	COM(2004)0017	15/01/2004	Summary
Commission communication on Council's position	COM(2004)0100	09/02/2004	Summary
Commission opinion on Parliament's position at 2nd reading	COM(2004)0352	29/04/2004	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES1616/2003 OJ C 080 30.03.2004, p. 0115-0117	10/11/2003	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Decision 2004/0848
OJ L 195 02.06.2004, p. 0007-0011 Summary

Equality women and men: promoting organisations active at European level, 2004-2005 action programme

2003/0109(COD) - 27/05/2003 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE : to give a legal basis to the Community action programme to promote organisations active at European level in the field of equality between men and women. CONTENT : equality between women and men has been recognised as a fundamental principle of Community law since the adoption of the Treaty of Rome. Following the entry into force of the Treaty of Amsterdam, provisions relating to equality between men and women have been substantially reinforced by Article 2 of the EC Treaty and with the integration of Article 13 which aims to combat all discrimination based, inter alia, on sex. Article 13(2) EC is the appropriate legal basis, since the objective is to support the activities of organisations active at European level in order to achieve equality between men and women in fields extending beyond those of employment and occupation. The activities of these European organisations help to promote gender equality, particularly in the case of Community measures targeted specifically at women. The European Women's Lobby in particular plays a major role in promoting, monitoring and disseminating Community measures aimed at women. Its activity therefore serves the general European interest. In this context, budget lines A-3037 (No ABB 040503) and A-3046 (No ABB 040501) of the general budget of the European Communities for the year 2003 and preceding years are intended to support the European Women's Lobby and organisations active at European level in the field of equality between men and women. The adoption of Council Regulation 1605/2002/EC, Euratom on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities and the decision to base the manner in which the Commission's budget is constructed on the ABB approach (Activity Based Budgeting) involve establishing basic instruments for a number of grants funded on the basis of appropriations defined in Part A (administrative appropriations) of the Commission section of the budget (section III). The objective of this Decision is therefore to provide a basic instrument for awarding an operating grant to the European Women's Lobby and other organisations active at European level in the field of equality between men and women for the years 2004 and 2005. The proposal stipulates that other organisations active at European level in the field of equality between men and women which may be eligible for a grant on the basis of a call for proposals must be established in the Member States or in the countries which agreed at the Copenhagen summit in 2002 to join the European Union in 2004; in the EFTA/EEA countries, in accordance with the conditions established in the EEA agreement; in Romania, Bulgaria and Turkey. Their activities will contribute to the development and implementation of Community actions to promote equality between men and women. Their activities must in all cases be in accordance with the principles underlying Community action in the policy area of equality between men and women and have transnational potential. In addition, the organisations must have been legally established for more than one year, acting alone or in the form of various coordinated associations. Concerning, in particular, the European Women's Lobby plays amajor role in promoting, monitoring and disseminating Community measures aimed at women. Its activity therefore serves the general European interest. For this reason, the proposed basic instrument therefore contains a reference to the beneficiary organisation and the operating grant is awarded without a call for proposals. As regards the budgetary implications of the proposed measure, the amounts provided for take into account in particular the amount granted to the European Women's Lobby and other women's organisations in the European Community budget for the year 2003. The enlargement of the Union will lead to an increase in the activities of the European Women's Lobby in favour of its members, particularly in the new Member States. The total amount proposed is EUR 2 222 000 for the two years covered by the programme.

Equality women and men: promoting organisations active at European level, 2004-2005 action programme

2003/0109(COD) - 30/03/2004 - Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Rodi KRATSA-TSAGAROPOULOU (EPP-ED, GR) making some amendments to the common position. (Please see the summary of 15/03/04.)

Equality women and men: promoting organisations active at European level, 2004-2005 action programme

2003/0109(COD) - 15/01/2004 - Modified legislative proposal

The Commission accepted 11 amendments in entirety and partially accepted 1 amendment. It rejected 8 amendments. Those amendments accepted in clued the following: - the organisations in receipt of operating grants or grants for actions under strands 2 and 3 must pursue an objective of general European interest which is part of the European Union's policy in the field of gender equality; - the activities of the European Women's Lobby mentioned by the Commission proposal intended to reinforce the gender equality aspect in the EU enlargement process also include developing cooperation with women's organisations in the new Member States; - the addition of examples of the type of action to be financed under the programme, such as gender mainstreaming in education, sport, health and social protection and fostering cooperation with women's organisations in third countries; - the members of the European Women's Lobby include women's organizations. (Its Statutes also refer to women's sections of nongovernmental organisations and natural persons as members). The amendments rejected involve modifying the provisions on co financing, degressivity and, indirectly, the duration of the programme put forward in the Commission's proposal. The Commission does not accept the proposed

increase in the cofinancing of the European Women's Lobby to a maximum of 90% rather than the 80% reflecting the current situation, or the application of the degressivity rule for grants to the other organisations with effect from the third year, when the programme only lasts for two years. Parliament also provided for an extension of the programme to 2008 and an increase in the budget to EUR 5.5 million euros. The Commission cannot accept amendments of this kind which are not in line with the trilogue's joint declaration of 24 November 2003. With regard to the reporting requirements, the Commission does not accept the Parliament's amendment, which imposes an obligation disproportionate to the amount and duration of the programme. Furthermore, as the programme finishes at the end of 2005, it would seem appropriate to maintain the obligation to submit a report by the end of 2006. With regard to the amendment enabling operating grants following calls for proposals under strand 2 to be awarded to organisations whose activities include combating violence as an obstacle to equality, the Commission states that this arbitrarily gives priority to a particular activity rather than keeping the provision general. Finally, the amendments providing the Parliament with prior information on the priority themes before issuing the calls for proposals is rejected, since it interferes with the power of execution of which the Commission has a monopoly.

Equality women and men: promoting organisations active at European level, 2004-2005 action programme

2003/0109(COD) - 20/11/2003 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Rodi KRATSA-TSAGAROPOULOU (EPP-ED, GR) and made some amendments to the Commission's proposals. (Please see the document dated 03/11/03.) To clarify: - the European Women's Lobby will receive at least 10% of cofinancing, even through contributions in kind and no degressivity; - bodies selected by a call for proposals will receive at least 20% of cofinancing even through contributions in kind, and degressivity in real terms at a maximum rate of 2.5% from the third year onwards; - the budget for the years 2004-2008 will be EUR 5.5 million; - whilst the external assessment report must be made available no later than 2006, the Commission must submit a report by 31 December 2007.

Equality women and men: promoting organisations active at European level, 2004-2005 action programme

2003/0109(COD) - 09/02/2004 - Commission communication on Council's position

The common position is acceptable to the Commission. In particular, it accepts the Council's decision not to accept the amendment on keeping the term "reconciling" rather than "coordinating" family life and work in the proposal for a decision. "Reconciling" was originally chosen by the Commission because it was the term used in all its documents relating to this sphere. Moreover, the amendment was intended to add, by way of illustration, a series of specific areas where activities could be funded, and it could be dispensed with. The Commission accepts the rejection of the amendment on the changing of the structure of the Annex. It is intended solely to rectify an error in presentation in the proposal for a decision. Since the Council has changed the layout of the annex in the proposal for a decision by mentioning the provisions relating to organisations active at European Union level in the field of equality in general first and the provisions concerning the European Women's Lobby in particular second, the amendment no longer makes any sense. The Commission is willing to accept Council's amendment on "non-profit making". On the one hand, the addition of the term "non-profit making" is not absolutely necessary, since Article 109(2) of the Financial Regulation provides that grants may not be intended to occasion or result in a profit accruing to the beneficiary. On the other hand, keeping the part of the sentence "an objective which is part of the European Union's policy in the field of gender equality" initially featuring in the Commission's proposal for a decision is more consistent with the general objective of the European Union's policy in this area. On the new provisions introduced by the Council and the Commission's position, the common position moves the explicit references to the European Women's Lobby in the body of the proposal for a decision to the annex and specifies that the operating grant is awarded directly to it after approval of its programme of work and budget. The Commission can accept this approach, which does not call into question the fact that the European Women's Lobby is a designated beneficiary receiving, without any call for proposals, an annual operating grant and which still upholds all the current practical arrangements for awarding the grant. The common position moves the provision on the duration of the programme in Article 6 in the proposal for a decision to a new paragraph 3 in Article 1. The Commission shares the Council's opinion that simply moving key parts of the text of the proposal for a decision makes it more comprehensible. The proposed common position is acceptable to the Commission, subject to inclusion of the transitional clause discussed at the budget conciliation meeting of 24 November 2003. The transitional clause should be worded as follows: - For grants awarded in 2004, it will be possible for the period of eligibility of expenditure to start on 1 January 2004, provided that the expenditure does not precede the date on which the grant application was lodged or the date on which the beneficiary's budget year starts; - During 2004, in the case of beneficiaries whose budgetary year starts before 1 March, an exception may be granted to the obligation to sign the grant agreement within the first four months of the start of the beneficiary's budget year, as referred to in Article 112, paragraph 2 of Council Regulation 1605 /2002/EC, Euratom on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities. In this case, the grant agreement should be signed by 30 June 2004 at the latest.

Equality women and men: promoting organisations active at European level, 2004-2005 action programme

2003/0109(COD) - 29/04/2004 - Commission opinion on Parliament's position at 2nd reading

The Commission accepts the two amendments of the European Parliament which are in line with the decisions taken in the budget conciliation meeting of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission of 24 November 2003. It was decided in the meeting that, in order for the Commission to

be able to execute the 2004 budget immediately after the approval of the basic acts, transitional clauses covering the period before this approval, should be added to the basic acts, allowing, on an exceptional basis, the signature of the conventions mentioned in Article 112(2) of the Financial Regulation before the 30 June 2004.

Equality women and men: promoting organisations active at European level, 2004-2005 action programme

2003/0109(COD) - 29/04/2004 - Final act

PURPOSE : to establish a Community Action Programme to promote organisations active at European level in the field of equality between men and women. LEGISLATIVE ACT : Decision 848/2004/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Community action programme to promote organisations active at European level in the field of equality between men and women. CONTENT : the general objective of the programmes is to support the activities of such organisations, of which an ongoing programme of work or a specific action serves the general European interest in the field of equality between men and women or pursues an objective which is part of the European Union's policy in this area. The programme shall start on 1 January 2004 and shall end on 31 December 2005. The financial framework for the implementation of the programme for the period from 2004 to 2005 shall be EUR 2,2 million. In order to be eligible for a grant, an organisation active at European level in the field of equality between women and men must comply with the provisions laid down in the Annex and its activities must: - contribute to the development and implementation of Community actions to promote equality between men and women; - be in accordance with the principles underlying, and the legal provisions governing Community action in the policy area of equality between men and women; - have transnational potential. The organisation in question must have been legally established for more than one year, acting alone or in the form of various coordinated associations. In addition to organisations established in the Member States, participation in the programme shall be open to organisations active at European level in the field of equality between men and women which are established in: - Accession States which signed the Treaty of Accession on 16 April 2003; - the EFTA/EEA countries, in accordance with the conditions laid down in the EEA Agreement; - Romania and Bulgaria, on the basis that the conditions for their participation are to be laid down in accordance with the European Agreements, their additional Protocols and the Decisions of the respective Association Councils; - Turkey, on the basis that the conditions for its participation are to be laid down in accordance with the Framework Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Turkey on the general principles for the participation of the Republic of Turkey in Community programmes. The activities carried out by organisations which are eligible to receive a Community grant under the programme will come under one of the following strands: - Strand 1: ongoing activities of the European Women's Lobby, whose members are inter alia, women's organisations in the Member States of the European Union, subject to observance of the following principles: it must be free to select its members and it must be free to pursue its activities. - Strand 2: ongoing activities of an organisation pursuing an objective of general European interest in the field of genderequality or an objective forming part of the European Union's policy in this area. In accordance with Article 2, this applies to a non-profit-making body carrying out its activities exclusively in order to achieve equality between women and men or an organisation with a wider aim which carries out part of its activities exclusively to promote equality between women and men. An annual operating grant may be awarded to support the implementation of such an organisation's ongoing programme of work. - Strand 3: specific actions of an organisation pursuing an objective of general European interest in the field of equality between women and men or an objective forming part of the European Union's policy in this area. Concerning the awarding of grants, operating grants awarded to organisations active at European level in the field of equality between men and women may cover no more than 80% of the organisation's total eligible expenditure for the calendar year for which the grant is awarded. A derogation shall be made from the principle of degressivity for grants awarded under the programme. This Decision sets out transitional clauses. For grants awarded in 2004, it will be possible for the period of eligibility of expenditure to start on 1 January 2004, provided that the expenditure does not precede the date on which the grant application was lodged or the date on which the beneficiary's budgetary year starts. During 2004, in the case of beneficiaries whose budgetary year starts before 1 March, an exception may be granted to the obligation to sign the grant agreement within the first four months of the start of the beneficiary's budgetary year. In this case, the grant agreement should be signed by 30 June 2004 at the latest. By 31 December 2006 at the latest, the Commission shall submit a report to the European Parliament and the Council on the achievement of the objectives of the programme. That report shall be based on the results obtained by the beneficiaries and shall assess, in particular, their effectiveness in achieving the objectives. ENTRY INTO FORCE : the Decision shall enter into force on 1 May 2004. It shall apply from 1 January 2004.

Equality women and men: promoting organisations active at European level, 2004-2005 action programme

2003/0109(COD) - 06/02/2004 - Council position

The Council adopted its common position with the aim of safeguarding continuing support for these organisations in the years 2004 and 2005. The Council has accepted the main objectives of the Commission's proposal and several of the European Parliament's amendments. More specifically, the Council accepted 9 of the 20 amendments adopted by Parliament and which were also accepted by the Commission in their entirety in its amended proposal. Concerning the duration of the programme and the overall amount of money to be spent on it, the Common Position respects the agreement reached between the European Parliament, the Commission and the Council at the Trilogue on 24 November 2003 which sets the financial framework for the implementation of the programme for the period 2004-2005 at EUR 2.2 million. This amount is deemed acceptable for the Commission. It should also be noted that the Council decided not to accept the Parliament's amendment providing for an extension of the programme to 2008 and an increase in the budget to EUR 5.5 million. The Council rejected 3 of the amendments accepted by the Commission for the following reasons: - one amendment was rejected because the Council considered the word "reconciliation" of working and family life to be stronger and more appropriate than the word "interlinking". Concerning the second part of the amendment, the Council did not add specific sectors for gender mainstreaming as this would have raised the question as to why other specific sectors were not referred to; - another was rejected for purely technical reasons as the structure of the Annex was modified and the European Women's Lobby was referred to; - the Council rejected this amendment because the definition of "non-profit-making" organisations was difficult and could lead to an unwanted exclusion of certain organisations. In addition, the reference at the end of the sentence to an objective which is part of the European Union's policy in this area was maintained as funding is important in order to boost the

European Union's policy aims. The Council made additional changes to the Commission's proposal. The principle amendment made by the Council to the Commission's proposal concerns the specific references to the European Women's Lobby, which were deleted in certain Articles. The reason for this was that it was preferable that the Decision should define the selection criteria for organisations eligible for funding in an abstract way. In addition, the Council also moves the explicit references to the European Women's Lobby in the body of the proposal for a decision to the annex and specifies that the operating grant is awarded directly to it after approval of its programme of work and budget.