Basic information

2003/2011(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Equal opportunities for men and women in the European Union. 2002 7th annual report **Subject** 4.10.04 Gender equality	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities	SWIEBEL Joke (PSE)	20/05/2003

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	BASTOS Regina (PPE-DE)	14/05/2003

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs	2549	2003-12-01

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
16/01/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
05/03/2003	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2003)0098	Summary
26/11/2003	Vote in committee		Summary
26/11/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0481/2003	
01/12/2003	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
14/01/2004	Decision by Parliament	T5-0023/2004	Summary
14/01/2004	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2003/2011(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP P.F.
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	FEMM/5/19094

Equal opportunities for men and women in the European Union. 2002 7th annual report

2003/2011(INI) - 14/01/2004 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the own-initiative report drafted by Joke SWIEBEL (PES, NL) wwelcoming the efforts made by the Commission to promote equal opportunities for women and men in many policy areas of the Union. It regretted, however, that certain DGs and Services seem to be rather unwilling to incorporate gender mainstreaming into their policies or to undertake new specific policy actions. It called on the ten Commissioners with special responsibility in these fields to devote greater attention to the equal opportunities policy in their departments and policy areas and to submit a report to Parliament before 31 December 2004 on the measures which they have taken. Parliament also called on the Commission, to devote a separate chapter of the annual report to equal treatment legislation and to include an overview of the transposition of current equal opportunities legislation into national law in the Member States and in the accession countries, of any arrears and shortcomings and of the measures taken by the Commission to remedy the situation. Parliament went on to ask Member States and the accession countries to give higher priority to the problem of good and affordable childcare facilities so that the objectives established at the Barcelona European Council of providing childcare facilities for 90% of children aged between 3 and the mandatory school age and for 33% of children under three years of age may be attained by 2010. It asked the Commission to submit to Parliament an overview of the results achieved by the projects undertaken under the 2001 (Equal pay) and 2002 (Reconciliation of work and family life) priority actions, funded to the tune of EUR 8 million and EUR 7.5 million respectively, and to indicate the extent to which the objectives have been attained by these projects. With regard to the 2002 Work Programme, Parliament asked the Commission to explain why, despite the intention laid down in Decision 2000/407/EC, it appointed fewer women to serve on committees and expert groups in 2002 than it did in 2001, with the result that the disparity between the number of men and women in committees and expert groups became larger. It also asked the Commission to report on the feasibility study relating to the European Gender Institute. Parliament went on to emphasise that, in the final phase before accession in May 2004, the Commission must urge the accession countries to pursue an awareness campaign on gender equality so that they may inform their citizens about their rights. It also emphasised once again how important it is for the Commission to monitor Member State compliance with existing equal treatment legislation. The Commission should expand the network of legal experts in the field of gender equality as soon as possible by the inclusion of experts from the accession countries. Parliament welcomed the Commission proposal for a Council Directive implementing the principle of equal treatment for men and women in the access to and supply of goods and services (see COM (2003) 657), but felt that legislation on equal treatment for men and women must be brought into line with legislation to combat racial discrimination and that it must therefore also cover welfare protection, including health care, welfare benefits and education; Finally, Parliament was delighted by CommissionerDiamantopoulou's announcement of the publication of a Green Paper on the development of a comprehensive anti-discrimination policy. The European Union must pursue an anti-discrimination policy which provides an equal measure of protection against discrimination on various grounds.

Equal opportunities for men and women in the European Union. 2002 7th annual report

2003/2011(INI) - 05/03/2003 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : to present the 7th Annual Report on Equal Opportunities in the EU. CONTENT : the report states that the EU has made progress in gender legislation, notably with adoption of the directive on harassment at work, looks at Member States new caselaw on equal pay and initiatives to reconcile work and family life. However, the Commission finds that data on women's participation in decision-making, especially in the private sector, are unsatisfactory. The report analyses how far gender issues have been given a role in each of the other EU policies ('gender mainstreaming'). The report examines how far candidate countries have got in adopting EU gender rules, concluding that 'paper law' is not, on its own, enough there is a need for back-up in the form of equality bodies, ombudsmen for equality and reliable independent advice. 2002 also heralded the start of the work of the Convention on the Future of Europe. The lack of women's representation within the Convention has been criticised and, to counterbalance this deficit, a strengthened gender mainstreaming approach has been advocated. In responding to the many challenges facing the European Union, it is clear that any future Constitutional Treaty must reflect the aspirations of women and men in an enlarged Europe and confirm the established principle of equal treatment between women and men. In order to achieve a gender equal society, the Union must continue working to eliminate inequalities and promote equality between men and women in all its policies and actions (gender mainstreaming). The Framework Strategy on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men continued to provide a structure for gender mainstreaming of all policy areas, and 2002 saw, for example, the evaluation of the

European Employment Strategy, including the impact of gender mainstreaming, and an analysis of Gender in the Structural Funds. Important progress was made in raising awareness and exchange of good practice in the Social Inclusion process and in the Pension Report. The successful amendment of the Equal Treatment Directive thanks to strong collaboration with the Council and European Parliament in the co-decision process, moved the agenda of equality firmly forward in the area of employment. Attention also focused on domestic violence against women, including the adoption of indicators, and efforts were stepped up to prevent and eliminate this unacceptable practice. Gender equality is a human right for all and visible international solidarity and support for women who are denied this right is essential. Some important steps were taken in 2002, but much remains to be done and this therefore will continue to be a crucial area for efforts in the future.

Equal opportunities for men and women in the European Union. 2002 7th annual report

2003/2011(INI) - 03/02/2003 - Document attached to the procedure

This document consists of the third annual work programme of the Community Framework Strategy on Gender Equality and sets out the Commission's planned activities for 2003 in order to promote gender equality in all policy areas. This work programme takes the Commission to the mid-point of the 5-year Community Framework Strategy on Gender Equality (2001-2005), at which stage there will be a more detailed study of the progress made in the implementation of gender equality within the various services of the European Commission, including the evaluation of resource implications (human and financial). The Commission gender equality work programme for 2003 builds on the successes achieved in 2002 and includes pro-active as well as reactive interventions, i.e. adjusting existing policies by applying gender mainstreaming, and introducing specific interventions designed to improve the situation of the disadvantaged or under-represented sex in the respective policy area. The gender equality work programme consists of a dual approach - horizontal priorities applicable to all Directorates General and services; and policy specific initiatives by each Directorate-General and service, covering: - the integration of a gender perspective in policy initiatives (gender mainstreaming) and - specific actions addressed to the disadvantaged or under-represented gender in the relevant policy area. The following priority actions will be implemented by all Commission services: - the endorsement of the generalised approach of Impact Assessment. From 2003, an Impact Assessment based on the three pillars of social, economic and environmental sustainability will gradually be applied to all major new initiatives, i.e. those which are presented in the Annual Policy Strategy or later in the Work Programme of the Commission. This impact assessment will replace existing requirements for business impact assessment, gender assessment, environmental assessment, small and medium enterprises assessment, trade impact assessment, regulatory impact assessment etc. Indeed, the new integrated Impact Assessment tool builds on these existing practices and incorporates them into the new tool; - it remains however for individual DGs to ensure that the impact assessments they conduct take into account gender impacts as well. It is equally important that in addition to impact assessments of new policy initiatives, the work of gender mainstreaming continues especially for existing policy initiatives, as part of interim and ex-post policy analysis; - since gender sensitive policy planning and analysis require gender desegregated data as input in the relevant policy area, each service will enhance its efforts to collect gender desegregated data and systematically break down by gender all related statistics. All services will continue the development of indicators, which will allow assessment of progress of gender equality in that policy; - the document shows that there is still a need for awareness-raising on gender issues in the Commission services and for training of the Commission staff on the methods for assessing the different impact of policies on women and men respectively and for mainstreaming a gender equality perspective into the policy planning and implementation process. Each Directorate-General and service will therefore insert gender mainstreaming modules in its training plans for staff members of all levels, in particular management level. This may take the form of specific gender equality or gender mainstreaming training sessions or as modules of general training courses. Lastly, the document covers the issue of gender balance in committees and expert groups. The results of the 2002 survey indicate that in comparison with the previous 2 years, the number of women in committees and groups has slightly increased. However, this upward shift is due to the enhanced nomination of women by other bodies, while Commission appointed members seem to have become less gender balanced.