Basic information

2007/2011(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Juvenile delinquency - role of women, the family and society **Subject** 4.10.03 Child protection, children's rights 4.10.09 Women condition and rights 4.10.25 Social problems: delinquency, violence, crime	

Key players

European Parliament	**Committee responsible**	**Rapporteur**	**Appointed**
	FEMM Women's Rights and Gender Equality	BATZELI Katerina (PSE)	20/12/2006
European Commission	**Commission DG**	**Commissioner**	
	Justice and Consumers	FRATTINI Franco	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
18/01/2007	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
05/06/2007	Vote in committee		Summary
08/06/2007	Committee report tabled for plenary	A6-0212/2007	
20/06/2007	Debate in Parliament		
21/06/2007	Decision by Parliament	T6-0283/2007	Summary
21/06/2007	Results of vote in Parliament		
21/06/2007	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2007/2011(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Committee dossier	FEMM/6/44538

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	**Committee**	**Reference**	**Date**	**Summary**
Committee draft report		PE386.682	08/05/2007	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE388.602	08/05/2007	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A6-0212/2007	08/06/2007	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T6-0283/2007	21/06/2007	Summary

Juvenile delinquency - role of women, the family and society

2007/2011(INI) - 21/06/2007 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted the resolution based on the own-initiative report drafted by Katerina **BATZELI** (PES, EL) on juvenile delinquency, the role of women, the family and society. It stated that juvenile delinquency is becoming a matter for concern on account of the huge scale it has now assumed, owing to the fact that delinquency is starting at a younger age, the number of offences committed by children under the age of 13 is increasing and that the acts committed by young people are becoming increasingly brutal. Juvenile delinquency could be effectively combated only by adopting an integrated strategy at national and European level which would mesh three guiding principles: **prevention, extrajudicial and judicial measures and the social inclusion of all young people.**

Policies at national level : in order to combat juvenile delinquency, an integrated and effective school, social, family and educational policy must be implemented, which would help to ensure that social and civic values are passed on and that young people adjust to society at an early age. There was also a need for a policy geared to countering social exclusion and poverty, with particular reference to child poverty. Members emphasised assistance to families with financial and social problems. Parliament felt that families, educators and society should convey values to young people from their infancy. It emphasised the specific role that the family plays in all stages of the fight against juvenile delinquency. Member States must develop adequate support for parents. National policies should include provision for one-year parental leave which would enable families that so wish to devote particular attention to the initial upbringing of their child (which is of such great importance to a child's emotional development).

Parliament also stressed the particular importance of schools and school communities in shaping the character of children and adolescents. If the education system failed to provide suitable channels for intervention, assistance and contact with students, two fundamental characteristics of present-day schools, multiculturalism coupled with an increased distinction between social classes, might lead to violence within schools. Education authorities should be issued with the necessary guidelines regarding an up-to-date approach to conflict management at school by means of conciliation procedures involving pupils, parents, teachers and local authorities.

Parliament went on to emphasise the importance of the following:

- special training for teachers in the management of heterogeneous classes;

- special counselling and psychological support for children encountering problems of social integration, the availability of medical care and the appointment of social workers, sociologists/criminologists, child psychologists and experts in issues relating to juvenile delinquency, measures to combat discrimination against members of the school community, the appointment of a community ombudsman acting as an intermediary between the school and the community and cooperation between various school communities in drawing up and implementing programmes to prevent violence;

- strict implementation of Community and national legislation on the monitoring of television broadcasting possibly of a particularly violent nature or unsuitable for juveniles. Member States authorities should reach agreement with the media on a 'road map' upholding the rights of the child, involving a ban on the broadcasting of extremely violent images at certain times of the day and prohibiting the revelation of the identity of those involved in juvenile delinquency;

- improving the quality of youth centres and enhancing their role as a meeting place for young people ;

- the role of the media in preventing juvenile delinquency by providing information and increasing public awareness ;

- the value of introducing measures in the Member States which would provide alternative forms of punishment to confinement ;

- innovatory legal measures in response to the problem, such as the direct involvement of the parents of juveniles from prosecution up to the implementation of sentences, accompanied by education and intensive psychological support.

Parliament asked Member States to earmark separate budget appropriations specifically for measures to prevent juvenile delinquency.

Towards a European strategy: Member States, in cooperation with the Commission, need to draw up a number of minimum standards and guiding principles common to all Member States in relation to juvenile delinquency. These must focus on the three basic pillars of (firstly) **prevention,** (secondly) **judicial and extrajudicial measures** and (thirdly) **rehabilitation and social integration or reintegration**. These should be based on the principles internationally established under the Beijing rules and the Riyadh guidelines, the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international conventions in this field.

The **objective of a common European approach** should be to define models for intervention in order to deal with juvenile delinquency, while recourse to custodial measures and punishment should constitute a last resort and be implemented only when judged to be absolutely necessary.

The Commission is called upon to lay down specific criteria for all Member States for the collection of national statistics in order to ensure that they are comparable and therefore usable during the planning of measures on a European scale.

All parties are called upon to learn from best practice and to assess the experiments as regards cooperation agreements between police authorities, educational establishments, local authorities, youth organisations and social services at local level. Member States should also learn from best practice in order to combat the worrying increase in drug consumption by juveniles.

MEPs called on the Commission and the Member States as an initial measure to develop existing European resources and programmes encompassing measures to cope with juvenile delinquency and facilitate satisfactory social reintegration of perpetrators and victims, examples being : the special 2007-2013 programme for 'Preventing and Combating Crime'; the specific 'Criminal Justice' programme for 2007-2013; the DAPHNE III programme to combat violence against juveniles and children; and the European Social Funds. They called for an extension of the Television Without Frontiers Directive (Directive 89/552/EEC) to cover mobile telephony and the Internet.

Two basic lines of Community action should be taken into consideration forthwith:

- funding for preventive measures under existing Community programmes and the creation of a new budget heading for integrated actions and networks to combat juvenile delinquency, and

- the publication of a Commission communication on the extent of the problem in Europe and suitable preparations to be made, through a network of national experts, for the drafting of an integrated framework programme to combat juvenile delinquency.

Parliament called on the Commission to draw up a programme of co-funded measures, to include consideration of best prevention practices and of effective, innovative solutions based on a multi-sectoral approach. Lastly, Parliament suggested a series of measures that should be proposed by the Commission, in preparing the way for the European Juvenile Delinquency Observatory and the related framework programme. These include the establishment of an international centre of excellence.