Basic information

2013/2004(INL) INL - Legislative initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Combating violence against women **Subject** 4.10.09 Women condition and rights 7.30.30.02 Action to combat violence, trafficking in human beings and migrant smuggling	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
FEMM Women's Rights and Gender Equality	PARVANOVA Antonyia (ALDE)	15/11/2012
	Shadow rapporteur JIMÉNEZ-BECERRIL BARRIO Teresa (PPE) GARCÍA PÉREZ Iratxe (S&D) ROMEVA I RUEDA Raül (Verts/ALE) YANNAKOUDAKIS Marina (ECR) GUSTAFSSON Mikael (GUE/NGL)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
LIBE Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs	ANGELILLI Roberta (PPE)	17/10/2013

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Justice and Consumers	REDING Viviane

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
17/01/2013	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
23/01/2014	Vote in committee		

31/01/2014	Committee report tabled for plenary	A7-0075/2014	Summary
24/02/2014	Debate in Parliament		
25/02/2014	Decision by Parliament	T7-0126/2014	Summary
25/02/2014	Results of vote in Parliament		
25/02/2014	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2013/2004(INL)
Procedure type	INL - Legislative initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Request for legislative proposal
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 47
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	FEMM/7/11628

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE522.850	31/10/2013	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE524.579	29/11/2013	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE524.683	02/12/2013	
Committee opinion	LIBE	PE524.504	14/01/2014	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A7-0075/2014	31/01/2014	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T7-0126/2014	25/02/2014	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2014)447	22/07/2014	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Combating violence against women

2013/2004(INL) - 31/01/2014 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality adopted the own-initiative report by Antonyia PARANOVA (ALDE, BG) with recommendations to the Commission on combating Violence Against Women. Members noted that the number of women killed is accounting for a growing proportion of the total, proving that violence against women is increasing.

They also noted that according to the European Added Value Assessment, the annual cost to the EU of gender-based violence against women is estimated at EUR 228 billion in 2011 (i.e 1.8 % of EU GDP), of which EUR 45 billion a year in public and state services and EUR 24 billion of lost economic output.

Accordingly, the committee requested the Commission to submit, by the end of 2014, on the basis of Article 84 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, **a proposal for an act establishing measures to promote and support the action of Member States in the field of prevention of violence against women and girls** (VAWG), following the **detailed recommendations** set out in the report. The recommendations cover the following areas:

Recommendation 1 on the objective and scope of the Regulation to be adopted: Members considered that gender-based violence should be considered as violence that is directed against a person because of that person's gender, gender identity or gender expression or that affects persons of a particular gender disproportionately. It may result in physical, sexual, emotional or psychological harm, or economic loss, to the victim and may include violence in close relationships, sexual violence (including rape, sexual assault and harassment), trafficking in human beings, slavery, and different forms of harmful practices, such as forced marriages, female genital mutilation and so-called ‘honour crimes’).

Recommendation 2 on prevention and combat measures: the report sets out measures that include yearly comprehensive strategies and programmes, including public education programmes and training for teachers and professionals in the recreational sector.

Recommendation 3 on national rapporteurs or equivalent mechanisms: within one year from the entry into force of the Regulation, Member States should establish national rapporteurs or equivalent mechanisms. The tasks of such mechanisms should include:

- the carrying out of assessments of trends in gender-based violence,
- the measuring of results of measures taken to combat it at national and local level,
- the gathering of statistics,
- report yearly to the Commission and the competent committees of the European Parliament.

Recommendation 4 on coordination of the Union strategy: Member States should transmit to the Commission the information referred to in Recommendation 3.

Recommendation 5 on reporting: an annual report from the Commission will assess the extent to which Member States have taken appropriate measures

Recommendation 6 on the creation of a civil society forum : the Commission shall maintain a close dialogue with relevant civil society organisations and set up a Civil Society Forum for this purpose.

Recommendation 7 on financial support: the Regulation should establish the source of the financial support within the frame of the Union budget (Section III) for the actions listed under Recommendation 3.

Furthermore, the Council was asked to **activate the passerelle clause**, by adopting a unanimous decision identifying violence against women and girls (and other forms of gender based violence) as an area of crime listed in Article 83(1) of the TFEU.

Reiterating the need for a new proposal for EU legislation which establishes a coherent system for collecting statistics on violence against women in the Member States, Members also asked for a **revised proposal for a Regulation on European statistics** that would target violent crimes of any kind against women and include a coherent system for collecting statistics on gender-based violence in the Member States.

Members called on the Commission to promote national ratifications and launch the procedure for the accession of the EU to the **Istanbul Convention** on violence against women, once it has evaluated the impact and added value the latter would have.

The Commission was asked to present **an EU-wide Strategy and an Action Plan** to combat all forms of violence against women and girls, with the aim of protecting women’s integrity, equality and well-being in an area of freedom, security and justice, focusing in particular on making women aware of their rights and men and boys (from an early age) of the need to respect women’s physical and psychological integrity, stressing the need for police and judicial services to be given proper training in dealing with the specific challenges of gender-based violence, and encouraging Member States to make arrangements to help victims rebuild their lives and recover their self-confidence. Such strategy should devote particular attention to vulnerable groups such as older persons, people with disabilities, immigrants and LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) persons and that it should also comprise measures to support children who have witnessed violence and recognise them as victims of crime.

Combating violence against women

2013/2004(INL) - 25/02/2014 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution containing recommendations to the Commission on combating Violence Against Women.

It noted that the number of women killed is accounting for a growing proportion of the total, proving that violence against women is increasing. Studies on violence against women estimated that one-fifth to one-quarter of all women in Europe had experienced physical acts of violence at least once during their adult lives, and more than one-tenth had suffered sexual violence involving the use of force.

Parliament also noted that according to the European Added Value Assessment, the annual cost to the EU of gender-based violence against women is estimated at EUR 228 billion in 2011 (i.e 1.8 % of EU GDP), of which EUR 45 billion a year in public and state services and EUR 24 billion of lost economic output.

Accordingly, Parliament asked that the Commission submit, by the end of 2014, on the basis of Article 84 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, **a proposal for an act establishing measures to promote and support the action of Member States in the field of prevention of violence against women and girls** (VAWG), following the **detailed recommendations** set out in the resolution. The financial implications of the proposal should be covered by the Union budget, Section III (ensuring full complementarity with existing budget line relating to the subject of the proposal).

Additionally, Parliament called on the Commission to:

- adopt the first steps towards establishing a **European Observatory on Violence Against Women and girls,** building on existing institutional structures (European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)) and directed by a EU Coordinator on VAWG;
- establish in the next three years an **EU Year to End Violence against Women and Girls**, with a view to presenting a clear plan of action to end violence against women.

The recommendations cover the following areas:

Recommendation 1 on the objective and scope of the Regulation to be adopted: Parliament considered that gender-based violence should be considered as violence that is directed against a person because of that person's gender, gender identity or gender expression or that affects persons of a particular gender disproportionately. It may result in physical, sexual, emotional or psychological harm, or economic loss, to the victim and may include violence in close relationships, sexual violence (including rape, sexual assault and harassment), trafficking in human beings, slavery, and different forms of harmful practices, such as forced marriages, female genital mutilation and so-called 'honour crimes').

Recommendation 2 on prevention and combat measures: the resolution sets out measures that include yearly comprehensive strategies and programmes, including public education programmes and training for teachers and professionals in the recreational sector; relevant research on gender-based violence; exchange expertise and best practices; establish awareness-raising campaigns; creation of national help lines free of charge with specialised staff as well as establishing specialised shelters (offering places for at least 1 woman per 10 000 inhabitants).

Recommendation 3 on national rapporteurs or equivalent mechanisms: within one year from the entry into force of the Regulation, Member States should establish national rapporteurs or equivalent mechanisms. The tasks of such mechanisms should include the carrying out of assessments of trends in gender-based violence, the measuring of results of measures taken to combat it at national and local level, the gathering of statistics and yearly reporting to the Commission and the competent committees of the European Parliament.

Recommendation 4 on coordination of the Union strategy: Member States should transmit to the Commission the information referred to in Recommendation 3.

Recommendation 5 on reporting: an annual report from the Commission will assess the extent to which Member States have taken appropriate measures

Recommendation 6 on the creation of a civil society forum: the Commission shall maintain a close dialogue with relevant civil society organisations and set up a Civil Society Forum for this purpose.

Recommendation 7 on financial support: the Regulation should establish the source of the financial support within the frame of the Union budget (Section III) for the actions listed under Recommendation 3.

Furthermore, the Council was asked to **activate the passerelle clause**, by adopting a unanimous decision identifying violence against women and girls (and other forms of gender based violence) as an area of crime listed in Article 83(1) of the TFEU.

Reiterating the the need for a new proposal for EU legislation which establishes a coherent system for collecting statistics on violence against women in the Member States, Members also asked for a **revised proposal for a Regulation on European statistics** that would target violent crimes of any kind against women and include a coherent system for collecting statistics on gender-based violence in Member States.

Members called on the Commission to promote national ratifications and launch the procedure for the accession of the EU to the **Istanbul Convention** on violence against women, once it has evaluated the impact and added value the latter would have.

The Commission was asked to present an **EU-wide Strategy and an Action Plan** to combat all forms of violence against women and girls, with the aim of protecting women's integrity, equality and well-being.

Lastly, Member States were asked to:

- **combat honour killings** by providing education and shelter for possible victims and to mobilise awareness campaigns of the extreme form of human rights abuses and the numbers of tragic deaths caused by honour killings;

- help disseminate information about EU programmes and the funding available under them to combat violence against women.