Basic information

2014/2217(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Progress on equality between women and men in the European Union in 2013 **Subject** 4.10.04 Gender equality	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
FEMM Women's Rights and Gender Equality	TARABELLA Marc (S&D)	03/09/2014
	Shadow rapporteur GABRIEL Mariya (PPE) VON STORCH Beatrix (ECR) BILBAO BARANDICA Izaskun (ALDE) VALLINA Ángela (GUE/NGL) URTASUN Ernest (Verts/ALE) LUNACEK Ulrike (Verts/ALE)	

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Justice and Consumers	JOUROVÁ Věra

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
17/12/2014	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
20/01/2015	Vote in committee		
28/01/2015	Committee report tabled for plenary	A8-0015/2015	Summary
09/03/2015	Debate in Parliament		
10/03/2015	Decision by Parliament	T8-0050/2015	Summary
10/03/2015	Results of vote in Parliament		

10/03/2015	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2014/2217(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Annual report
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	FEMM/8/01107

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE541.538	12/11/2014	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE544.364	12/12/2014	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE544.365	12/12/2014	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A8-0015/2015	28/01/2015	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T8-0050/2015	10/03/2015	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2015)344	20/07/2015	

Progress on equality between women and men in the European Union in 2013

2014/2217(INI) - 28/01/2015 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality adopted the own-initiative report by Marc TARABELLA (S&D, BE) on progress on equality between women and men in the European Union in 2013.

The report called upon EU institutions and Member States to:

- mainstream the issues of gender, women’s rights and equal opportunities **in their policy making, and budget procedures** especially in connection with stimulus packages, by carrying out gender impact analyses on a case-by-case basis;
- integrate a gender pillar into the **Europe 2020 strategy** to measure progress on reducing the gender gap in employment
- develop a general **plan for investment into social infrastructure**, as it has been estimated that with a gendered investment plan, European gross domestic product (GDP) would increase more than without such an investment plan.

The report made certain recommendations, inter alia :

- **fight against poverty among** women, and older women and single mothers in particular, but also women who are victims of gender-based violence, women with disabilities, migrant women and women from minorities, mainly through the European Social Fund and the Structural Funds;

- **allow for changes in the family unit** when drawing up their taxation and compensation policies, in particular by providing support to one-parent families and older people in the form of tax credits or health care assistance;

- **reduce gender gaps in pay and pension** also by addressing the persistent concentration of women in part-time, low-pay and precarious work and by securing **care facilities of a sufficient quality for children**. Give full effect to the rights provided for under Directive 2006/54/EC, including the principle of equal pay and pay transparency;

- **implement proactive policies** to promote good jobs for women in order to meet the Europe 2020 targets by combating stereotypes and vertical and horizontal occupational segregation;

- **set specific employment targets** in the framework of their national reform programmes to ensure that women have the same opportunities as men to access and stay in the labour market;

- **establish affordable, flexible, high-quality and easily accessible services** for the care of people who are unable to cope with everyday tasks by themselves due to fact that they do not possess the functional autonomy they need to strike a balance between their personal, family and working lives.

Deploring the **deadlock in the Council regarding the maternity leave directive**, the report urged Member States to resume the negotiations thereon and Members reiterated their willingness to cooperate.

They also called on the Commission to take decisive policy action to **fight gender stereotypes** and suggested to the Member States that they raise awareness of equal rights and equal opportunities for men and women in their educational systems.

On the issue of **violence against women**, Members renewed their call on the Commission to submit a proposal for a legislative act establishing measures to promote and support the action of Member States in the field of preventing violence against women and girls, by supporting a **comprehensive and effective policy framework** on gender-based violence. Member States must work systematically on empowering women in reporting violence to authorities.

The Commission and the Member States were asked to make 2016 the European year against violence against women.

The committee maintained that women must have control over their sexual and reproductive health and rights, not least by having ready access to contraception and abortion.

Lastly, it considered it unfortunate that the **annual report** now ranked only as a working document annexed to the report on the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and urged the Commission to restore the full political legitimacy of the annual report by having it officially adopted in its own right.

Progress on equality between women and men in the European Union in 2013

2014/2217(INI) - 10/03/2015 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 441 votes to 205, with 52 abstentions, a resolution on progress on equality between women and men in the European Union in 2013.

Equality and Europe 2020 strategy: Parliament called on the European Institutions and the Member States to:

mainstream the issues of gender, women's rights and equal opportunities **in their policy making, budget procedures** and the implementation of EU programmes and activities, by means of pro-active measures, especially in connection with stimulus packages;

- integrate a **gender pillar** into the Europe 2020 strategy to measure progress on reducing the gender gap in employment;

- develop a **general plan for investment into social infrastructure**, as it has been estimated that with a gendered investment plan, European gross domestic product (GDP) would increase gradually.

The resolution stressed that need to tackle **poverty among women**, and in particular older women and single mothers by implementing more effective inclusion strategies and making more efficient use of social policy resources, not least the European Social Fund and the Structural Funds. Members called for the Country-Strategy Recommendations (CSRs) systemically to address the structural causes of female poverty.

Equality in the areas of employment and decision-making: noting that the gender gap in pay stands at 16.4% and that women make up 17.8% of the membership of large company boards, Parliament stressed the need to:

- **reduce gender gaps in pay and pension** also by addressing the persistent concentration of women in part-time, low-pay and precarious work. Give full effect to the rights provided for under Directive 2006/54/EC, including the principle of equal pay and pay transparency;

- **set specific employment targets** in the framework of their national reform programmes to ensure that women have the same opportunities as men to access and stay in the labour market;
- implement **proactive policies to promote good jobs for women** in order to meet the Europe 2020 targets by combating stereotypes and encouraging women to embrace careers in science;
- promote gender equality through, inter alia, the **presence of women in economic and political decision making** and, which is a question of fundamental rights and democracy.

Reconciliation of professional and private life: stressing the fact that increased flexibility in working arrangements can increase women's opportunities to participate actively in the labour market, but, at the same time, has a negative impact on women's wages and pensions; Parliament pointed out the need for **specific work-life balance proposals**, and encourages men and women to share occupational, family, and social responsibilities more evenly. It called on the Commission to provide continuing financial support to Member States so that they can offer **affordable childcare systems**.

Parliament called on the Commission and the Member States to establish **paid paternity leave** of at least ten working days. It also urged Member States to resume the negotiations on the maternity leave directive which is still at deadlock in the Council.

Violence against women: Parliament renewed its call on the Commission to submit a **proposal for a legislative act** establishing measures to promote and support the action of Member States in the field of preventing violence against women and girls, by supporting a **comprehensive and effective policy framework** on gender-based violence. Member States must work systematically on empowering women in reporting violence to authorities.

Gender stereotypes: the resolution called on the Commission to take decisive policy action to **fight gender stereotypes** and suggested to the Member States that they raise awareness of equal rights and equal opportunities for men and women in their educational systems.

Parliament maintained that women must have **control over their sexual and reproductive health and rights**, not least by having ready access to contraception and abortion.

Lastly, it considered it unfortunate that the **annual report** now ranked only as a working document annexed to the report on the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and urged the Commission to restore the full political legitimacy of the annual report by having it officially adopted in its own right.