Basic information

2017/2897(RSP) RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	Procedure completed
Resolution on combating sexual harassment and abuse in the EU **Subject** 4.10.09 Women condition and rights 4.15.12 Workers protection and rights, labour law	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
25/10/2017	Debate in Parliament		
26/10/2017	Decision by Parliament	T8-0417/2017	Summary
26/10/2017	Results of vote in Parliament		
26/10/2017	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2017/2897(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Resolution on statement
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 136-p2
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Motion for a resolution		B8-0576/2017	25/10/2017	
Motion for a resolution		B8-0577/2017	25/10/2017	
Motion for a resolution		B8-0578/2017	25/10/2017	
Motion for a resolution		B8-0579/2017	25/10/2017	
Motion for a resolution		B8-0580/2017	25/10/2017	
Motion for a resolution		B8-0581/2017	25/10/2017	
Motion for a resolution		B8-0582/2017	25/10/2017	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T8-0417/2017	26/10/2017	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2018)7	08/03/2018	

Resolution on combating sexual harassment and abuse in the EU

2017/2897(RSP) - 26/10/2017 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 580 votes to 10, with 27 abstentions, a resolution on combating sexual harassment and abuse in the EU.

The text adopted in plenary had been tabled by the EPP, S&D, ECR, ALDE, Greens/EFA, GUE/NGL and EFDD groups.

Members recalled that sexual harassment is a **form of violence against women** and is the most extreme form of gender-based discrimination.

According to the 2014 EU-wide study entitled 'Violence against women' carried out by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, one in three women have experienced physical or sexual violence during their adult life; **up to 55 % of women have been sexually harassed in the EU**. Cases of sexual harassment and bullying are significantly underreported to the authorities.

Zero tolerance and the fight against harassment and sexual abuse in the EU: Parliament has condemned all forms of sexual violence and physical or psychological harassment, deploring the fact that these acts are too easily tolerated.

It asked the Commission to submit a **proposal for a directive against all forms of violence against women and girls and of gender-based violence and a comprehensive EU strategy** against all forms of gender-based violence, including sexual harassment and sexual abuse against women and girls.

Members stressed the need to:

- **monitor the correct implementation of EU directives** prohibiting harassment on the basis of gender and sexual harassment, and to ensure that the EU Member States strengthen the human resource capacity of equality bodies supervising discriminatory practices;
- **exchange existing best practices** of combating sexual harassment in the workplace and to disseminate the results of this assessment as regards the effective measures that Member States could take to encourage companies, social partners and organisations involved in vocational training to prevent all forms of gender-based discrimination, in particular as regards harassment and sexual harassment in the workplace;
- accelerate the ratification of the **Istanbul Convention**.

In response to the **under-reporting** of sexual harassment, Members suggested establishing procedures of workplace accountability, active engagement of men and boys in violence prevention, and action against emerging forms of violence, e.g. in cyberspace as the harassment of women online, and in particular on social media is becoming more widespread in the digital society.

Parliament considered it urgent that Member States, employers' organisations and trade unions promote awareness of sexual harassment and to support and encourage women to report incidents immediately. It underlined the importance of **dedicated training and awareness-raising campaigns** regarding existing formal procedures on reporting sexual harassment in the workplace and victims' rights.

Sexual harassment in parliaments, including in the European Parliament: Parliament has put in place specific structures and internal rules to address sexual harassment, including: (i) an advisory committee dealing with harassment complaints between accredited parliamentary assistants and Members of the European Parliament; (ii) an advisory committee dealing with harassment complaints and its prevention at the workplace for EP staff.

Members called on the President of Parliament and Parliament's administration:

- to urgently and thoroughly examine the recent media reports on sexual harassment and abuse in the European Parliament;
- to set up a **task force of independent experts** to be convened with a mandate to examine the situation of sexual harassment and abuse in Parliament;
- to ensure the implementation of a **strong and effective action plan against sexual harassment** in the interest of prevention and support and mandatory training for all staff and Members on respect and dignity at work;
- to set up an **institutional network of confidential counsellors** tailored to Parliament's structures to support, advise and speak on behalf of victims, when needed, as is the practice for the Commission staff.

Members called on all colleagues to support and encourage victims to speak out and report cases of sexual harassment through improved formal procedures within Parliament's administration and/or to the police.

Lastly, Member States are urged to examine the situation of sexual harassment and abuse in their national parliaments.