Resolution of the European Parliament on empowering girls through education in the EU

The European Parliament,

– having regard to the briefing of March 2015, drawn up by Parliament’s administration, entitled ‘Women and education in the EU’,

– having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU),

– having regard to Rule 52 of its Rules of Procedure,

– having regard to the report of the Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality and the opinion of the Committee on Culture and Education (A8-0206/2015),

A. whereas the responsibilities of the Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality are defined in Annex VI of the European Parliament’s Rules of Procedure, 8th legislative period, April 2015, namely:

1. the definition, promotion and protection of women’s rights in the Union and related Union measures;

2. the promotion of women’s rights in third countries;

3. equal opportunities policy, including the promotion of equality between men and women with regard to labour market opportunities and treatment at work;

4. the removal of all forms of violence and discrimination based on sex;

5. the implementation and further development of gender mainstreaming in all policy sectors;

6. the follow-up and implementation of international agreements and conventions involving the rights of women;
7. encouraging awareness of women’s rights;

B. whereas, under the Lisbon Treaty and the TFEU, neither the Commission nor Parliament have any powers in the field of education, which falls exclusively within the competence of the Member States in line with the inviolable founding principle of subsidiarity;

C. having regard to the briefing of March 2015 entitled ‘Women and education in the EU’, which notes that:

1. in 2012, 1,990,561 young men received a bachelor’s or master’s degree, as compared to 2,850,223 young women, showing that there is a +42% discrepancy in favour of women in higher education;

2. in 2013, whatever their level of education, the employment rate for women under 34 was lower than that for men with the same level of education in the same age cohort in 18 countries of the EU;

1. Welcomes the good results achieved by young European women in higher education and notes that there is no need to call into question the effectiveness of national education programmes in terms of equality of opportunities for access to study;

2. Notes that the gaps between men and women in access to the labour market are not due to their level of education;

3. Calls on Members of the Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality to concentrate on the topics for which their committee is responsible, particularly the removal of violence against women in the EU;

4. Urges Parliament to adhere strictly to the principles of subsidiarity and the sovereignty of the Member States in the field of education, and not to interfere under any pretext in school programmes nor, more broadly, in any educational measures whether in schools, the family or cultural and sporting activities;

5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the governments of the Member States.

Or. fr