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Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

2007/2153(INI)

17.7.2007

OPINION

of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

for the Committee on Culture and Education

on the cultural industries in Europe
(2007/2153(INI))

Draftswoman: Claire Gibault

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality calls on the Committee on Culture and Education, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

- A. whereas cultural diversity and the free flow of ideas have their roots in originality, the multiplicity of identities and equality between men and women,
- B. whereas equality between men and women is a European Union core value, which is passed on through culture, and this transmission of values furthers European integration,
- C. whereas gender balance is far from being a reality in the cultural industries,
- D. whereas women hold positions of responsibility in the cultural industry primarily in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) or when they set up their own businesses,
- E. whereas the participation of women in the TIMES sector (telecommunications, Internet, media, e-commerce and software), a basic plank of the cultural industry, is extremely low (30%), while only 20% of new businesses in that sector are set up by women,
- F. whereas, although a growing number of women now enter the labour market in the cultural industries sector, they still hold mainly middle-ranking and less important positions in large organisations,
- G. having regard to the role that women's organisations could play in the cultural industry and to their influence on improving the situation of women in all areas of life,
 - 1. Points out that in the cultural SMEs where women are best represented cooperation between men and women is conducive to the emergence of an enriching creativity and diversity of ideas;
 - 2. Calls on the Member States to include entrepreneurship studies in national secondary and higher education programmes, particularly in the humanities, arts and culture fields;
 - 3. Calls on the Member States to put an end to all forms of discrimination that hamper access by women to training and a career in the cultural industries sector and urges them to promote greater knowledge and wider dissemination of art produced by women, to promote women's involvement in cultural institutions and international cultural exchanges and to make it easier for women entrepreneurs to gain access to funding for entrepreneurship programmes, loans and other bank services, considering that they can have a real influence on ridding the cultural sector of gender-related stereotypes;
 - 4. Encourages the Member States to facilitate women's access to management posts in the cultural industry, as the most prestigious positions in the sector are still primarily held by men;

5. Notes that the programme to support the European audiovisual sector (MEDIA 2007) does not provide for specific measures to support the participation of women; calls on the Commission to take this factor into account in future programmes;
6. Urges the Member States and the Commission to promote measures to support women's creative activities in the cultural industry in order to enhance the profile and recognition of women artists in cultural production (cinema, music, theatre, art, etc.);
7. Welcomes the recent creation (2007) of the European Parliament's annual film prize (PRIX LUX) as a means of strengthening cultural policy, promoting cultural and linguistic diversity, preserving cultural tradition and supporting exchanges; calls for this prize to take account, in particular, of women's participation and creativity in recognition of their contribution to the development and advancement of European cinema;
8. Recommends that the Member States set themselves the objective of increasing the number of women in all decision-making posts in the cultural sector and that they monitor achievement of this objective;
9. Calls on the Member States to pay particular attention to women's earning levels in the cultural industry, with a view to ensuring that pay schemes do not result in gender-related salary discrimination;
10. Recommends that the Member States give greater support and recognition, as well as financial assistance, to women's organisations in the cultural industry in connection with activities seeking to put an end to discrimination against women in the cultural sector;
11. Stresses the important role of cultural industries in the fight against gender stereotypes, promoting equality between men and women and changing mentalities; invites the Member States to encourage cultural industries to transmit these ideas through their initiatives.

PROCEDURE

Title	The cultural industries in Europe
Procedure number	2007/0000(INI)
Committee responsible	CULT
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	FEMM 21.6.2007
Enhanced cooperation – date announced in plenary	
Drafts(wo)man Date appointed	Claire Gibault 19.3.2007
Previous drafts(wo)man	
Discussed in committee	4.6.2007 16.7.2007
Date adopted	16.7.2007
Result of final vote	+: 26 -: 0 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Edit Bauer, Hiltrud Breyer, Věra Flasarová, Nicole Fontaine, Claire Gibault, Lissy Gröner, Zita Gurmai, Esther Herranz García, Anneli Jäätteenmäki, Urszula Krupa, Roselyne Lefrancois, Siiri Oviir, Doris Pack, Marie Panayotopoulos-Cassiotou, Zita Pleštinská, Christa Prets, Karin Resetarits, Teresa Riera Madurell, Amalia Sartori, Eva-Britt Svensson, Anna Záborská
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Gabriela Crețu, Jill Evans, Anna Hedh, Marusya Ivanova Lyubcheva
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Ján Hudacký, Peter Šťastný
Comments (available in one language only)	...