

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

9.5.2007

PE 388.612v01-00

AMENDMENTS 1-24

Draft opinion

(PE 388.377v01-00)

Ilda Figueiredo

Equality between women and men in the European Union in 2007
(2007/2065(INI))

Amendment by Esther De Lange

Amendment 1
Paragraph 1

1. Considers it vital to acknowledge the significant role played by women in farming in the various countries of the European Union, ***both in primary production and in the diversification of economic activities on the farm and in the countryside***; draws attention to the high levels of poverty and isolation affecting women in ***some*** rural areas, stressing the need for effective measures to guarantee equal opportunities for women, which must be a central objective in all the instruments of the common agricultural policy and the various Community policies;

Or. nl

Amendment by Astrid Lulling

Amendment 2
Paragraph 1

1. Considers it vital to acknowledge the significant role played by women in farming in the various countries of the European Union; draws attention to the fact ***that farmers' assisting spouses have no official status in most Member States, and are therefore invisible and, consequently, often more unprotected than atypical workers***;

AM\666482EN.doc

PE 388.612v01-00

Amendment by María Isabel Salinas García

Amendment 3

Paragraph 1

1. Considers it vital to acknowledge the significant role played by women in farming in the various countries of the European Union; draws attention to the high levels of poverty and isolation affecting women in rural areas, stressing the need for effective measures to guarantee equal opportunities for women, which must be a central objective in all the instruments of the common agricultural policy and the various *related* Community policies, ***which must effectively promote the participation of women, and especially young women, in rural development, encouraging their full incorporation into social and economic activity in the rural areas;***

Or. es

Amendment by Christa Klab

Amendment 4

Paragraph 2

2. Takes the view that full use should be made of all the possibilities offered by rural development policy and cohesion policy in order to promote equality between men and women, including programmes co-financed by the Structural Funds, guaranteeing that women in rural areas ***are involved on an equal footing*** in relation to the support granted;

Or. de

Amendment by Friedrich-Wilhelm Graefe zu Baringdorf, Alyn Smith

Amendment 5

Paragraph 2 a (new)

- 2a. ***Stresses that, in agriculture, women often perform a significant proportion of the work as family workers; considers that this work should also be appropriately included in statistics on rural employment and taken into account in rural development policy; takes the view that Member States should aim to afford such women access to old-age pension schemes;***

Or. de

Amendment by María Isabel Salinas García

Amendment 6
Paragraph 3

3. Stresses that, even though eliminating inequalities and promoting equal opportunities are considered basic objectives of the implementing regulations for the Structural Funds and rural development programmes, in practice the participation of women farmers in shaping and making use of the possibilities offered to them is minimal; consequently calls on the Commission to ensure that due attention is paid to strengthening the role of women farmers in the procedures for approving the relevant projects, ***enabling the active participation of women's associations and federations in rural areas, and of other bodies bringing together women in the countryside, in designing those programmes and determining the evaluation criteria for the different calls for expression of interest;***

Or. es

Amendment by Katerina Batzeli

Amendment 7
Paragraph 3 a (new)

- 3a. ***Welcomes the Commission's initiative to incorporate a specific article concerning equality between men and women and non-discrimination (Article 8) in the Regulation on support for rural development (Regulation. 1698/2005); considers, nevertheless, that steps should be taken to ensure that equality policy is incorporated and monitored in all legislation concerning the agricultural sector; recalls Parliament's resolution on women in rural areas of the European Union in the light of the mid-term review of the common agricultural policy (P5_TA(2003)0342), which proposed that a unit be set up within the Commission's Directorate-General for Agriculture with the task of incorporating the gender dimension into all relevant legislation and policies;***

Or. el

Amendment by María Isabel Salinas García

Amendment 8
Paragraph 4

4. Stresses the need to improve the legal status of women working in agriculture, whether in relation to social security, ensuring that they all have direct access, or in relation to their role on the farms themselves, ***with particular emphasis on co-ownership of***

family farms, access to loans, and their rights in the context of inheritance law;

Or. es

Amendment by Astrid Lulling

Amendment 9
Paragraph 4 a (new)

4a. *Recalls, in this connection, its resolution of 8 January 1997 on the situation of assisting spouses of the self-employed, in which it called for the circumstances of assisting spouses in agriculture to be improved via the strengthening of Council Directive 86/613/EEC of 11 December 1986 on the application of the principle of equal treatment between men and women engaged in an activity, including agriculture and on the protection of motherhood¹, by introducing a legal status for assisting spouses providing, inter alia, for their mandatory registration, thanks to which they would no longer be invisible workers but would be part of the welfare system and would have sickness, invalidity and accident insurance and pension rights;*

Or. fr

Amendment by Katerina Batzeli

Amendment 10
Paragraph 4 a (new)

4a. *Stresses that, by its very nature, there are inherent risks in agricultural work to the health and safety of those who carry it out, particularly to women; notes that some of the risks faced by women farmers are exposure to pesticides, which, according to studies, affects fertility, the greater probability of contamination from animal diseases, handling of dangerous tools, etc.; considers that such risks should be assessed and controlled, as called for by Parliament in its resolution of 24 February 2005 on promoting health and safety at the workplace (P6_TA(2005)0056);*

Or. el

¹ OJ L 359, 19.12.1986, p. 56.

Amendment by Esther De Lange

Amendment 11

Paragraph 4 a (new)

- 4a. Notes that women often work as partners on family farms, which can give rise to specific financial and legal problems in the event of divorce and with regard to access to social security, sick leave, maternity leave and accumulation of pension entitlements;**

Or. nl

Amendment by Christa Klauß

Amendment 12

Paragraph 5

5. Considers it vital to improve the quality of life of women living in rural areas, ensuring that they have easier access to education and vocational training, lifelong learning, **new media infrastructures**, efficient and suitable local public health services, and infrastructure and facilities for children and families, particularly local crèches, nurseries, schools, cultural centres and markets;

Or. de

Amendment by Vincenzo Aita, Ilda Figueiredo

Amendment 13

Paragraph 5 a (new)

- 5a. Believes, therefore, that the European funds for 2007-2013 must be more closely targeted on ensuring those services, especially in small municipalities, which are losing ever more services on grounds of unprofitability,**

Or. it

Amendment by María Isabel Salinas García

Amendment 14

Paragraph 6

6. Stresses the importance of promoting the development of networks of women's organisations at European level **and their links with international networks of rural women's organisations**, and enhancing women's profile in local groups involved in

the implementation of agricultural programmes and the various activities linked to rural development; ***believes it is therefore essential to encourage the participation of women in rural areas in associative movements, including agriculture associations and cooperatives, and, in particular, their access to their governing bodies;***

Or. es

Amendment by Esther De Lange

Amendment 15
Paragraph 6

6. Stresses the importance ***of participation by women in organisations representing farmers' interests and*** of promoting the development of networks of women's organisations and enhancing women's profile in local groups involved in the implementation of agricultural programmes and the various activities linked to rural development.

Or. nl

Amendment by Ilda Figueiredo

Amendment 16
Paragraph 6 a (new)

- 6a. ***Stresses that improving equal opportunities for women in rural areas necessitates strengthening their role, both in agriculture and in other economic activities, including the defence of the multifunctional character of agriculture;***

Or. pt

Amendment by Vincenzo Aita, Ilda Figueiredo

Amendment 17
Paragraph 6 a (new)

- 6a. ***Stresses the need for greater recognition of the work of women family members on family farms, which is often undervalued thanks to particularly competitive market mechanisms;***

Or. it

Amendment by María Isabel Salinas García

Amendment 18

Paragraph 6 a (new)

6a. *Believes that more information needs to be available on women in rural areas, via the promotion of studies of their circumstances and the impact of gender policies on rural development and the organisation of seminars and conferences at European level to educate and inform women in the countryside, with the main stress on encouraging employment and self-employment, thus making it possible to exchange points of view regarding meetings of international organisations dealing with rural women's issues;*

Or. es

Amendment by Katerina Batzeli

Amendment 19

Paragraph 6 a (new)

6a. *Considers it essential that women be represented in farmers' collective organisations both at national and Community level by means of making appropriate adjustments to the statutes of those organisations; is convinced that incorporating the gender dimension will thereby make a significant contribution to shaping positions and policies;*

Or. el

Amendment by Esther De Lange

Amendment 20

Paragraph 6 a (new)

6a. *Welcomes in this context the ESF/EQUAL projects which are currently under way in a number of Member States with the aim of reviewing the problems of partners working on family farms, and looks forward to the presentation of the results of these projects;*

Or. nl

Amendment by Ilda Figueiredo

Amendment 21

Paragraph 6 b (new)

6b. *Notes the existence of major gaps in the agricultural statistics with regard to the men/women differential, and calls on the Commission to make good these shortcomings and ensure the elimination of discriminatory and distorting elements in the collection of data, in particular by ceasing to classify as 'domestic workers' women who are in reality working in agriculture;*

Or. pt

Amendment by Vincenzo Aita, Ilda Figueiredo

Amendment 22

Paragraph 6 b (new)

6b. *Stresses the need for greater value to be put on women's work, and especially that of immigrant women who are not part of the family farm as such and offer their labour power in the fields, and are thus more vulnerable as women in the agricultural environment;*

Or. it

Amendment by Katerina Batzeli

Amendment 23

Paragraph 6 b (new)

6b. *Stresses the importance of raising the profile of women farmers in order to strengthen policies which take account of the gender dimension; considers that the Commission should move in that direction, inter alia, by taking steps to include the position of women in the assessments, analyses and statistics which it produces and to organise information campaigns on the importance of the role of women and their contribution to European agriculture;*

Or. el

Amendment by Esther De Lange

Amendment 24

Paragraph 6 b (new)

6b. *Regrets moreover that the work of partners working on family farms is often not reflected in official statistics, and calls on the Commission and EUROSTAT to include this substantial category in their analyses.*

Or. nl