



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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*Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality*

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**2011/2035(INI)**

22.2.2011

## **DRAFT OPINION**

of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

for the Committee on Regional Development

on the Commission's 5th Cohesion Report and the Strategy for the post-2013  
Cohesion Policy  
(2011/2035(INI))

Rapporteur: Tadeusz Cymański

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## SUGGESTIONS

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

- A. having regard to the significant impact of gender equality on social and economic cohesion in Europe, which is affected by, *inter alia*, women's participation in the labour market,
- B. whereas significant regional differences exist in female participation in the labour market, and whereas on average the participation of women is usually lower than that of men,
- C. whereas women form a majority of the population with higher-education qualifications, but at the same time far outnumber men in the worst-educated population groups,
  - 1. Insists, in the context of the cohesion policy, on the need to increase financial support for action to facilitate a work-life balance for women and men, which benefits social cohesion by promoting the role of the family and parenthood and also economic cohesion by increasing the participation of women in the labour market;
  - 2. Believes that European Social Fund support should continue to focus primarily on raising employment levels, including by cofunding individual economic initiatives by people outside the labour market, including women over the age of 45;
  - 3. Calls on the Commission to give appropriate consideration, in the context of the cohesion policy, to the vocational education of women, and on the Member States to create 'lifelong learning programmes';
  - 4. Supports the Commission in its reform of the cohesion policy, including by concentrating funding on a smaller number of priorities, on condition that gender equality in the labour market remains an ongoing priority;
  - 5. Draws attention to the need to monitor the Commission activities set out in the accompanying document entitled 'Strategy for equality between women and men 2010-2015';
  - 6. Calls on the Member States to ensure effective implementation of all financial instruments available at European level which support inclusion in the labour market.