



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

2012/2150(INI)

28.8.2012

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

for the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

on The European Semester for economic policy coordination: Implementation
of 2012 priorities
(2012/2150(INI))

Rapporteur: Barbara Matera

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SUGGESTIONS

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

- A. whereas greater efforts must be made to achieve the target, set in the EU 2020 Strategy, of increasing the labour market participation of women to 75 % as this would free an important amount of untapped talent, especially in the field of science and technology, and would contribute to economic efficiency and increased productivity;
1. Reiterates its call on the Member States to integrate a gender equality perspective into the European Semester process by taking into account women's needs and situation when implementing the policy guidance given in the Annual Growth Survey; commends those Member States that have mainstreamed the gender dimension throughout their National Reform Programmes (NRPs) but regrets that many Member States have omitted any mention of gender;
 2. Calls on the Commission to add gender-sensitive indicators, to allow the monitoring of progress made towards the EU 2020 objectives, and to break down the EU 2020 targets and indicators by gender as much as possible;
 3. Recalls that the gender pay gap is still an issue in the EU and that it also affects the level of pensions that women later receive; calls, therefore, on the Member States to set qualitative targets in NRPs related to closing the gender pay gap;
 4. Recalls that most part-time jobs are held by women, which limits their economic independence when it is not chosen and which strongly affects women in vulnerable situations such as single mothers; calls, therefore, on the Commission and the Member States to monitor women's employment both in terms of quantity and in terms of quality, that is, on the basis of the number of hours worked per week, contract type and hence their ability to ensure their financial independence; calls on the Member States to insert a strong gender dimension to any measure and action aiming at promoting business and self-employment;
 5. Stresses that women should be encouraged and better trained to enter sectors with the highest employment potential, such as sectors within the low-carbon, resource-efficient economy ('green jobs') or the digital economy; stresses that in the health and social sectors ('white jobs'), which employ many women, jobs should receive better recognition in terms of types of contracts and salaries;
 6. Notes that the access of women to higher-qualified employment should also be facilitated in order to narrow the productivity gap of the EU and hence increase the EU competitiveness on global markets.