



0061/2016

22.6.2016

WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on the gender gap in digital skills

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Lapse date: 22.9.2016

Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on the gender gap in digital skills¹

1. While millions of Europeans are unemployed, companies are left searching for IT professionals.
2. It is estimated that 90 % of jobs will soon need some level of digital ability. Every citizen will thus need some form of digital knowledge to be able to interact with society.
3. A Commission report found that almost half of Europeans (47 %) are not sufficiently digitally skilled. There are currently twice as many male as female graduates in science, technology and mathematics.
4. A gap in digital skills may result in between 756 000 and 825 000 unfilled jobs for ICT workers by 2020. Female graduates disproportionately lack the digital skills to access these opportunities.
5. Currently females are at a disadvantage in the digital employment market. The Commission and the Council are called upon to assess the gender gap in digital skills. Initiatives should be considered to promote higher numbers of female graduates in STEM programmes.
6. The Commission and the Council are also called upon to reconsider their current strategies in the light of these figures.
7. This declaration, together with the names of the signatories, is forwarded to the Council and the Commission.

¹ Under Rule 136(4) and (5) of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, where a declaration is signed by a majority of Parliament's component Members, it is published in the minutes with the names of its signatories and forwarded to the addressees, without however binding Parliament.