

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

---

*Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality*

**2008/2330(INI)**

21.1.2009

## **DRAFT OPINION**

of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

for the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

on Renewed social agenda  
(2008/2330(INI))

Rapporteur: Marie Panayotopoulos-Cassiotou

PA\_NonLeg

## SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Notes the presentation of the renewed social agenda by the Commission, permitting developments to go one step further and providing for a more targeted and integrated approach of social policies by mobilising the fields of employment, equal opportunities, education, health, and information society and hopes that this will contribute to furthering gender equality, the creation of more and better jobs and the efforts to tackle poverty, discrimination and social exclusion;
2. Considers that Europe's interests and values, amongst which gender equality figures, must contribute to influence decisions taken at an international level;
3. Considers that flexibility and security must be used in favour of the socially disadvantaged, especially in regard to women and the elderly; to this end, a balanced approach has to be adopted regarding the interests of working women, but also concerning the promotion of economic growth;
4. Underlines the importance of education in social policy; stresses the need for young people to benefit from a qualitative education in order to eradicate the phenomenon of early school leaving; moreover youngsters, and especially girls and women, should be informed about the possibilities available to them in the field of education and training;
5. Encourages the enhancement of the dialogue with social partners, leading to an improvement of parental leave; welcomes the new proposals of the Commission concerning maternity leave and the rights of the self employed.