



2015/2220(INI)

17.11.2015

AMENDMENTS

1 - 44

Draft opinion

Julie Girling

(PE569.696v01-00)

Implementation and review of the EU-Central Asia Strategy
(2015/2220(INI))

AM_Com_NonLegOpinion

Amendment 1
Maria Arena

Draft opinion
Citation 1 (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

– having regard to the EC Joint Staff Working Document "Gender equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming lives of Girls and Women Through EU External relations 2016-2020",

Or. en

Amendment 2
Liliana Rodrigues

Draft opinion
Recital A a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

Aa. whereas all EU actions and initiatives should seek to promote human rights and the rule of law and whereas the EU's priorities include respect for freedom of association, freedom of expression, and freedom of religion, and promotion of the rights of women, children, and persons belonging to minorities;

Or. pt

Amendment 3
Liliana Rodrigues

Draft opinion
Recital A b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

Ab. whereas shortcomings in terms of human rights, democracy, and fundamental freedoms continue to exist in the Central Asian countries and whereas closer cooperation with the EU will open the way to improvement in those areas;

Or. pt

Amendment 4
Stefan Eck

Draft opinion
Recital B

Draft opinion

B. whereas the EU Special Representative for Central Asia, Peter Burian, has a responsibility to promote the rights of women;

Amendment

B. whereas the EU Special Representative for Central Asia, Peter Burian, has a responsibility to promote the rights of women ***and gender equality;***

Or. en

Amendment 5
Viorica Dăncilă

Draft opinion
Recital B a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

Ba. whereas achieving a common understanding of democracy, the rule of law and the rights of women is an essential precondition for closer cooperation between the EU and the five countries of Central Asia in areas of mutual interest; whereas, where discrimination occurs regarding access to education, healthcare and economic and cultural opportunities, the overall

situation of women in the region remains more of less precarious and deeply worrying;

Or. ro

Amendment 6
Liliana Rodrigues

Draft opinion
Recital C a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

Ca. whereas raising the general standard of education will help to counteract possible radicalism among young people and reduce gender-based violence;

Or. pt

Amendment 7
Catherine Bearder

Draft opinion
Recital C a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

Ca. whereas there are significant differences between the experiences of women who live in rural areas and the cities, and that it is difficult to generalise between them, with women in rural areas struggling more to access their rights under national laws;

Or. en

Amendment 8
Ernest Urtasun

Draft opinion
Recital C a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

Ca. whereas the EU must adopt urgently a gender based foreign policy in order to promote the gender equality agenda globally after 2015;

Or. en

Amendment 9
Maria Arena

Draft opinion
Recital C a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

Ca. whereas in Kazakhstan, despite the enactment of the Strategy for Gender Equality 2006-2016, negligible changes are reported by UN institutions regarding the situation of women; whereas women face distinct economic hardship, employment discrimination and remain vulnerable to trafficking, especially for sexual exploitation;

Or. en

Amendment 10
Maria Arena

Draft opinion
Recital C b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

Cb. whereas various forms of violence against women remains a widespread problem in Uzbekistan which has no legislation prohibiting domestic violence, in Tajikistan where trafficking in persons,

including sex and labour trafficking is a particular issue of concern, as well as in Kirghizstan where bride kidnapping, spousal rape and domestic violence are still reported;

Or. en

Amendment 11
Maria Arena

Draft opinion
Recital C c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

Cc. whereas in Turkmenistan, data collection on women's rights is scarce, and issues such as forced marriage, discrimination against separated and divorced women, domestic violence and trafficking in women and girls, remain widespread;

Or. en

Amendment 12
Maria Arena

Draft opinion
Paragraph -1 (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

-1. Recognises that Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kirgizstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan face individual challenges in advancing human rights, however the region faces common challenges as regards addressing and promoting women's rights and gender equality;

Or. en

Amendment 13
Catherine Bearder

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Notes that despite all five Central Asian countries ratifying the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, significant inequalities between men and women still exist in **Central Asia**; is concerned that 29% of women in the region are victims of physical or sexual violence;

Amendment

1. Notes that despite all five Central Asian countries ratifying the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, ***the culture remains patriarchal and male-dominated, and*** significant inequalities between men and women still exist in ***many areas including access to higher education, parts of the labour market and access to legal protection and rights***; is concerned that 29% of women in the region are victims of physical or sexual violence;

Or. en

Amendment 14
Stefan Eck

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Notes that despite all five Central Asian countries ratifying the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, significant inequalities between men and women still exist in Central Asia; is concerned that ***29% of women in the region are victims of physical or sexual*** violence;

Amendment

1. Notes that despite all five Central Asian countries ratifying the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, significant inequalities between men and women still exist in Central Asia; is concerned that ***violence against women is still widespread in many parts of Central Asia and takes many forms, including domestic violence, bride kidnapping, trafficking, early marriages and physical abuse***;

Or. en

Amendment 15
Maria Arena

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Notes that despite all five Central Asian countries ratifying the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, significant inequalities between men and women still exist in Central Asia; is concerned that 29% of women in the region are victims of physical or sexual violence;

Amendment

1. Notes that despite all five Central Asian countries ratifying the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, significant inequalities between men and women still exist in Central Asia; is concerned that 29% of women in the region are victims of physical or sexual violence; ***Calls the five countries to fully implement the CEDAW;***

Or. en

Amendment 16
Viorica Dăncilă

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Notes that despite all five Central Asian countries ratifying the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, significant inequalities between men and women still exist in Central Asia; is concerned that 29% of women in the region are victims of physical or sexual violence;

Amendment

1. Notes that despite all five Central Asian countries ratifying the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, significant inequalities between men and women still exist in Central Asia; is concerned that 29% of women in the region are victims of physical or sexual violence; ***reiterates that the support given by the European Union must include specific measures to eradicate discrimination against women so as to consolidate respect for human rights and the rule of law;***

Or. ro

Amendment 17
Maria Arena

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1a. Asks EEAS, within the review of its Central Asia Strategy and in line with its 2016-2020 priorities, to establish a comprehensive Gender Equality Action Plan with concrete actions to improve women's rights and women's living conditions in particular in order to tackle discrimination, forced marriages, violence against women and trafficking in women and girls;

Or. en

Amendment 18
Liliana Rodrigues

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1a. Recommends that judicial personnel be made aware of, and trained in, gender issues, and points to the need to punish persons who commit gender-based violence;

Or. pt

Amendment 19
Catherine Bearder

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

Amendment

2. Notes that women play a full and crucial role in agricultural production and farming

2. Notes that women play a full and crucial role in agricultural production and farming

across all Central Asian countries, with the average share of women employed in the agricultural sector standing at 58%³ ;

³ World Bank statistics 2012

across all Central Asian countries, with the average share of women employed in the agricultural sector standing at 58%³ ***but deplores the continuing practice of forced labour in agriculture, particularly in the cotton industry of Uzbekistan;***

³ World Bank statistics 2012

Or. en

Amendment 20
Maria Arena

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. Notes that women play a full and crucial role in agricultural production and farming across all Central Asian countries, with the average share of women employed in the agricultural sector standing at 58%³ ;

³ World Bank statistics 2012

Amendment

2. Notes that women play a full and crucial role in agricultural production and farming across all Central Asian countries, with the average share of women employed in the agricultural sector standing at 58%³ ***and calls all Central Asian countries to encourage employment of women and female entrepreneurship particularly in rural areas; Calls for promoting and monitoring economic and social rights and empowerment of girls and women as key objective to the EU external relations with the region;***

³ World Bank statistics 2012

Or. en

Amendment 21
Marc Tarabella

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2a. Welcomes the growing importance of women in national parliaments, with a 53% increase in Turkmenistan between 2011 and 2015; regrets the fact that that trend does not extend to Uzbekistan, where there has been a sharp decline over five years^{1 a};

^{1 a} World Bank statistics over a five-year period (2011-2015).

Or. fr

**Amendment 22
Marc Tarabella**

**Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 b (new)**

Draft opinion

Amendment

2b. Notes that, as regards ministerial posts, women are poorly represented, accounting in 2015 for 15% and 5.7% of such posts respectively in Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan;^{1 b}

^{1 b} World Bank statistics over a five-year period (2011-2015).

Or. fr

**Amendment 23
Liliana Rodrigues**

**Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 a (new)**

Draft opinion

Amendment

2a. Maintains that priority should be given to investment programmes that could have a greater impact on the region's development, not least in terms of education, youth, and gender equality;

Or. pt

Amendment 24
Nadine Morano

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2a. Points up the importance of women's access to vocational training and university education; calls on the EU Special Representative to encourage Central Asian countries to provide incentives in that area;

Or. fr

Amendment 25
Liliana Rodrigues

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2b. Urges the EU to intensify its action in the field of education, for instance by organising teacher training and supplying educational materials;

Or. pt

Amendment 26
Liliana Rodrigues

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2c. Calls for vocational education for women to be supported, for a greater take-up of higher education to be ensured in the fields of science and technology, and for gender equality training programmes to be devised for education professionals in Central Asian countries;

Or. pt

Amendment 27
Liliana Rodrigues

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 d (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2d. Calls for efforts to be continued with a view to modernising the public education sector, promoting international academic exchanges for students and teachers, and enabling women to participate on equal terms;

Or. pt

Amendment 28
Maria Arena

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

Amendment

3. Recognises the steps taken by individual Central Asian countries to improve gender

3. Recognises the steps taken by individual Central Asian countries to improve gender

equality, such as the amendments to Articles 154 and 155 of Kyrgyzstan's Criminal Code which came into force in February 2014 and toughened the penalty for the widely practiced custom of bride-kidnapping; *welcomes Kazakhstan's Gender Equality Strategy and its 45 political, social and economic measures; asks the Commission to further support the Central Asian countries in developing their women's rights agendas;*

equality, such as the amendments to Articles 154 and 155 of Kyrgyzstan's Criminal Code which came into force in February 2014 and toughened the penalty for the widely practiced custom of bride-kidnapping *but notes that protection of women's rights and promotion of gender equality across the region still remain a challenge;*

Or. en

Amendment 29
Aldo Patriciello

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Recognises the steps taken by individual Central Asian countries to improve gender equality, such as the amendments to Articles 154 and 155 of Kyrgyzstan's Criminal Code which came into force in February 2014 and toughened the penalty for the widely practiced custom of bride-kidnapping; welcomes Kazakhstan's Gender Equality Strategy and its 45 political, social and economic measures; asks the Commission to further support the Central Asian countries in developing their women's rights agendas;

Amendment

3. Recognises the steps taken by individual Central Asian countries to improve gender equality, such as the amendments to Articles 154 and 155 of Kyrgyzstan's Criminal Code which came into force in February 2014 and toughened the penalty for the widely practiced custom of bride-kidnapping; welcomes Kazakhstan's Gender Equality Strategy and its 45 political, social and economic measures; asks the Commission to further support the Central Asian countries in developing their women's rights agendas *with a view to achieving gender equality and ensuring that everyone, including the most vulnerable members of society, can fully enjoy their human rights;*

Or. it

Amendment 30
Maria Arena

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3a. Welcomes Kazakhstan's Gender Equality Strategy and its 45 political, social and economic measures; asks the Commission to further support the Central Asian countries in developing their women's rights agendas and calls for a better implementation of this strategy; Regrets the lack of female representation in Kazakh public decision-making bodies despite a 30 per cent quota being legally required in political institutions;

Or. en

Amendment 31
Maria Arena

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3b. Asks the Commission to further support the Central Asian countries in developing their women's rights agendas and to encourage each Central Asian countries to enact legislation which explicitly prohibits all forms of violence and discrimination against women, including sexual, physical, physiological and economic abuse;

Or. en

Amendment 32
Catherine Bearder

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3a. Notes that there is a gap between the law and reality; whilst some countries have a legal code guaranteeing equal rights with regards to the distribution of property, discrimination still persists in favour of male heirs; is concerned that the lack of legal registration of marriages in Tajikistan leaves women in an especially vulnerable position after a divorce, as OSCE research that 80% of women in divorce cases are denied property rights and child support because of this;

Or. en

**Amendment 33
Catherine Bearder**

**Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 b (new)**

Draft opinion

Amendment

3b. Notes that the marriage agency industry is relatively significant in Central Asia and asks that these countries consider regulating these agencies to best protect vulnerable women from exploitation;

Or. en

**Amendment 34
Liliana Rodrigues**

**Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)**

Draft opinion

Amendment

3a. Urges the EU to support civil society

organisations working to defend human rights and promote gender equality in Central Asian countries and to cooperate actively with international organisations involved in the gender equality field, for example the ILO, the OECD, and the UN, with a view to creating synergies serving to empower women;

Or. pt

Amendment 35
Mariya Gabriel

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3a. Encourages the countries in the region, and calls on the Commission, to focus also on women's involvement in decision-taking, in particular political decision-taking;

Or. fr

Amendment 36
Liliana Rodrigues

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3b. Recommends that a quota system be introduced in order to provide a way of promoting women's participation in political bodies and the democratic process, primarily as candidates;

Or. pt

Amendment 37
Liliana Rodrigues

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3c. Condemns any legislation, regulation, or government pressure that unduly curtails freedom of expression, especially that of women and other gender categories;

Or. pt

Amendment 38
Liliana Rodrigues

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 d (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3d. Maintains that EU involvement and budget support should be subject to such measurable progress regarding human rights, democracy, and fundamental freedoms as might be achieved in Central Asian countries;

Or. pt

Amendment 39
Catherine Bearder

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

Amendment

4. Notes with concern that the 2015 Annual Report on Human Trafficking⁴ has placed Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan on the ‘Watch List’, meaning that the number of victims of human trafficking is increasing;

4. Notes with concern that the 2015 Annual Report on Human Trafficking⁴ has placed Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan on the ‘Watch List’, meaning that the number of victims of human trafficking is increasing;

calls on the EU's Anti-Trafficking Coordinator to support Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in combating human trafficking;

⁴ Compiled by the U.S State Department

calls on the EU's Anti-Trafficking Coordinator to support Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in combating human trafficking, *and asks that the Member States highlight this important issue in their dealings with these countries;*

⁴ Compiled by the U.S State Department

Or. en

Amendment 40 **Aldo Patriciello**

Draft opinion **Paragraph 4**

Draft opinion

4. Notes with concern that the 2015 Annual Report on Human Trafficking⁴ has placed Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan on the 'Watch List', meaning that the number of victims of human trafficking is increasing; calls on the EU's Anti-Trafficking Coordinator to support Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in combating human trafficking;

⁴ Compiled by the U.S State Department

Amendment

4. Notes with concern that the 2015 Annual Report on Human Trafficking⁴ has placed Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan on the 'Watch List', meaning that the number of victims of human trafficking is increasing; calls on the EU's Anti-Trafficking Coordinator to support Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in combating human trafficking, *which is an affront to human dignity, often involving psychological terror and physical violence, and must therefore be eradicated;*

⁴ Compiled by the U.S State Department

Or. it

Amendment 41 **Ernest Urtasun**

Draft opinion **Paragraph 4 a (new)**

Draft opinion

Amendment

4a. Calls on Central Asian countries to develop education campaigns about the right to live free from violence and awareness raising initiatives among the whole society and especially religious leaders about the absolute requirement to have the consent from both parties during the marriage ceremony;

Or. en

Amendment 42
Ernest Urtasun

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5a. Calls on countries from the Central Asia region to properly implement or introduce legislations which prohibit all forms of violence and discrimination against women, including sexual, physical, physiological and economic abuse; to treat violence against women as a criminal offence; to properly investigate all reported cases; and to implement measures to guarantee protection, assistance and access to justice for the victims, together with mechanisms to ensure the enforcement of the law;

Or. en

Amendment 43
Ernest Urtasun

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5b. Stresses the need to develop trainings on violence against women and trafficking for law enforcement officers, prosecutors and judicial personnel and to establish accessible centres and shelters with psychological and legal support for the victims;

Or. en

Amendment 44
Ernest Urtasun

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5c. Emphasises the importance to properly fund those institutions and bodies in charge of implementing gender equality policies and to grant independence and funding for those civil society organisations working for women's rights;

Or. en