

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Document de séance

FINAL
A5-0161/2004

17 March 2004

*****II**

RECOMMENDATION FOR SECOND READING

on the common position adopted by the Council on 6 February 2004 with a view to the adoption of a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Community action programme to promote organisations active at European level in the field of equality between men and women (16185/1/2003 – C5-0068/2004 – 2003/0109(COD))

Committee on Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities

Rapporteur: Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou

Symbols for procedures

- * Consultation procedure
majority of the votes cast
- **I Cooperation procedure (first reading)
majority of the votes cast
- **II Cooperation procedure (second reading)
*majority of the votes cast, to approve the common position
majority of Parliament's component Members, to reject or amend
the common position*
- *** Assent procedure
*majority of Parliament's component Members except in cases
covered by Articles 105, 107, 161 and 300 of the EC Treaty and
Article 7 of the EU Treaty*
- ***I Codecision procedure (first reading)
majority of the votes cast
- ***II Codecision procedure (second reading)
*majority of the votes cast, to approve the common position
majority of Parliament's component Members, to reject or amend
the common position*
- ***III Codecision procedure (third reading)
majority of the votes cast, to approve the joint text

(The type of procedure depends on the legal basis proposed by the Commission)

Amendments to a legislative text

In amendments by Parliament, amended text is highlighted in ***bold italics***. Highlighting in *normal italics* is an indication for the relevant departments showing parts of the legislative text for which a correction is proposed, to assist preparation of the final text (for instance, obvious errors or omissions in a given language version). These suggested corrections are subject to the agreement of the departments concerned.

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PROCEDURAL PAGE

At its sitting of 20 November 2003 Parliament adopted its position at first reading on the proposal for a European Parliament and Council decision establishing a Community action programme to promote organisations active at European level in the field of equality between men and women (COM(2003) 279 – 2003/0109(COD)).

At the sitting of 12 February 2004 the President of Parliament announced that the common position had been received and referred to the Committee on Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities (16185/1/2003 – C5-0068/2004).

The committee had appointed Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou rapporteur at its meeting of 10 July 2003.

It considered the common position and the draft recommendation for second reading at its meeting of 16 March 2004 .

At the last meeting it adopted the draft legislative resolution unanimously.

The following were present for the vote: Anna Karamanou (chairwoman), Marianne Eriksson (vice-chairwoman), Olga Zrihen Zaari (vice-chairwoman), Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou (rapporteur), María Antonia Avilés Perea, Regina Bastos, Marie-Hélène Gillig (for Christa Prets), Lissy Gröner, Maria Martens, Amalia Sartori, Miet Smet, Joke Swiebel, Anne E.M. Van Lancker (for Mary Honeyball).

The recommendation for second reading was tabled on 17 March 2004 .

DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

on the common position adopted by the Council on 6 February 2004 with a view to the adoption of a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Community action programme to promote organisations active at European level in the field of equality between men and women
(16185/1/2003 – C5-0068/2004 – 2003/0109(COD))

(Codecision procedure: second reading)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Council common position (16185/1/2003 – C5-0068/2004),
 - having regard to its position at first reading¹ on the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council (COM(2003) 279)²,
 - having regard to the amended proposal (COM(2004) 17)³,
 - having regard to Article 251(2) of the EC Treaty,
 - having regard to Rule 80 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the recommendation for second reading of the Committee on Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities (A5-0161/2004),
1. Amends the common position as follows;
 2. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council and Commission.

Council common position

Amendments by Parliament

Amendment 1
Recital 15 a (new)

(15a) The Interinstitutional Declaration of 24 November 2003 on the basic acts for grants of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission provides, on an exceptional basis, for transitional clauses concerning the period of eligibility of expenditure to be introduced in this programme.

¹ Texts Adopted, 20.11.2003, P5_TA(2003)0511.

² Not yet published in OJ.

³ Not yet published in OJ.

Justification

Following to the budget conciliation meeting of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission of 24 November 2003, this amendment seeks to take account of the discussions held in the said meeting, as a new fact which has arisen since the first reading. Furthermore, this amendment aims at reaching a compromise between the Council and Parliament, pursuant to rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure.

Amendment 2
Article 6 a (new)

Article 6a

Transitional clauses

For grants awarded in 2004, it will be possible for the period of eligibility of expenditure to start on 1 January 2004, provided that the expenditure does not precede the date on which the grant application was lodged or the date on which the beneficiary's budgetary year starts.

During 2004, in the case of beneficiaries whose budgetary year starts before 1 March, an exception may be granted to the obligation to sign the grant agreement within the first four months of the start of the beneficiary's budgetary year, as referred to in Article 112 (2) of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities. In this case, the grant agreement should be signed by 30 June 2004 at the latest.

Justification

See justification of amendment 1.