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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to Questions for Oral Answer B6-0015/2005 and B6-0016/2005

pursuant to Rule 108(5) of the Rules of Procedure

by Amalia Sartori, Edit Bauer, Livia Járóka, Piia-Noora Kauppi, Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou

on behalf of the PPE-DE Group

on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women - Platform for Action (Beijing + 10)

European Parliament resolution on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women - Platform for Action (Beijing + 10)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which came into force on 4 January 1969,
- having regard to the UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) of 18 December 1979,
- having regard to the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment of 10 December 1984,
- having regard to the Declaration and Action Programme adopted in Beijing on 15 September 1995 at the Fourth World Conference on Women,
- having regard to its resolutions of 15 June¹ and 21 September 1995² on that Conference,
- having regard to the Council Recommendation of 2 December 1996 on the balanced participation of men and women in the decision-making process,³
- having regard to its resolution of 4 July 1996 on the follow-up to the Cairo International Conference on Population and Development,⁴
- having regard to its resolution of 19 May 2000 on the Commission communication to the Council and the European Parliament on 'For further actions in the fight against trafficking in women',⁵
- having regard to Directive 2000/43/EC of 29 June 2000 implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial and ethnic origin - the Race Equality Directive,⁶
- having regard to its legislative resolutions of 17 November 1999⁷ and 9 March 2004⁸ on the adoption of a programme of Community action (DAPHNE) (2000-2003 and

¹ OJ C 166, 3.7.1995, p. 92

² OJ C 269, 16.10.1995, p. 146

³ OJ L 319, 10.12.1996, p. 11

⁴ OJ C 211, 22.7.1996, p. 31

⁵ OJ C 59, 23.2.2001, p. 307 +5bis

⁶ OJ L 180, 19.7.2000, p. 22

⁷ OJ C 189, 7.7.2000, p. 69

⁸ Adopted text, P5_TA(2004)0143

2004-2008) on preventive measures to fight violence against children, young persons and women,

- having regard to the outcome document of the special session of the UN General Assembly of 5-9 June 2000 in New York on 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the 21st century',
 - having regard to its resolutions of 18 May¹ and 15 June 2000² on the follow-up to the Beijing Action Platform,
 - having regard to its resolutions of 20 September 2001³ and 25 September 2002⁴ on 'Equal pay for work of equal value' for men and women and 'Representation of women among the social partners of the European Union',
 - having regard to its resolution of 9 March 2004 on reconciling professional, family and private lives,⁵
 - having regard to the Ministerial Declaration of the Conference of Ministers for Gender Equality, meeting in Luxembourg on 4 February 2004,
 - having regard to Article 108 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas in the Treaty of Amsterdam very important provisions were adopted on gender equality, and the Charter of Fundamental Rights and the Constitutional Treaty reinforce these provisions,
- B. whereas in most EU countries women, and in particular those who head single parent families, constitute a significant proportion of the population living in a situation of great poverty,
- C. whereas the Lisbon European Council set as an objective a female employment rate of above 60% , to be achieved by 2010, and the Barcelona European Council fixed precise objectives concerning the childcare system and the need for the reconciliation of professional and family life, which has been reiterated in the Commission's strategic objectives for 2005-2009,
- D. emphasising that the discrimination faced by women in the employment market and in the professional environment affects their health and security, and inviting the Member States to implement Directive 2002/73/CE⁶, which aims to eliminate discrimination and, more particularly, sexual harassment and discrimination relating to maternity,

¹ OJ C 59, 23.2.2001, p. 258

² OJ C 67, 1.3.2001, p. 289

³ OJ C 77E, 28.3.2002, p. 134

⁴ OJ C 31E, 5.2.2004, p. 265

⁵ Adopted text, P5_TA(2004)0152

⁶ OJ L 269, 5.10.2002, p. 15

- E. noting the difference that exists between pay for men and women in the European Union, which ranges between 15 and 28%, depending on the calculation method used,
- F. whereas violence against women still exists, sexual exploitation has not decreased and, according to estimates, every year between 100 000 and 150 000 women and children from third countries are victim to the trafficking of human beings in the European Union ,
- G. whereas there is a need for international recognition of the specific crimes of which women are the victims during armed conflicts (rape, forced pregnancy, sexual exploitation),
- H. whereas Member States identified as known sites of non-consensual sterilisation should co-ordinate law enforcement efforts and put an end to this practice,
- I. regretting that genital mutilation, which is not unknown in EU countries, is still widespread (according to the WHO, two million women are subjected to these practices in the world each year),
1. Calls on those UN member states who have not yet done so to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;
 2. Calls on EU Member States, when developing emancipatory policies, to follow and/or maintain a dual approach, involving measures to mainstream gender into all aspects of standard policies, as well as specific policies and actions aimed at empowering women and ensuring gender equality;
 3. Requests that the Commission state its resolve to enforce Article 141 of the EC Treaty and the existing directives, in order to eliminate salary differences between men and women; hopes that the social partners will be involved in this work and will award a more significant role to women in their governing bodies;
 4. Calls on EU Member States to take the following measures to tackle gender gaps and multiple discrimination in employment:
 - evaluation of the impact of part-time and atypical forms of working on social security contributions, retirement, and the increase in poverty among women;
 - development and implementation of programmes for, and with, women to guarantee gender-balanced access to new technologies, especially in the information sector,
 - combating of the difference in access to employment for women vulnerable to the risk of social exclusion and poverty;
 5. Asks the Member States what measures they intend to take in order to improve the employment rate for women; also invites the Commission, following the transposition into national legislation of the Directive to combat discrimination against women at the workplace, to conduct a qualitative and comparative evaluation of the provisions introduced;

6. Requests that the dimension of equality between men and women be taken into consideration as part of the mid-term review of the Lisbon Strategy, and that it be placed on the agenda of the Spring European Council;
7. Supports the measures proposed by the Lisbon European Council aimed at facilitating the reconciliation of professional and family life; also supports measures in favour of increasing the participation of men in family life;
8. Stresses the importance of dividing the costs of parenthood more equally between the employers of each parent;
9. Notes the increase in the participation of women at all levels of political life in many Member States; regrets, however, that in some Member States this participation remains limited and hopes that those countries will adopt the necessary measures to improve this situation;
10. Calls on Member States, enterprises and the social partners to pursue efforts in favour of the participation of women at all levels of the decision-making process;
11. Requests that the Commission present to the European Parliament a report assessing the results of the measures adopted by Member States in recent years to combat trafficking in human beings, sex tourism and child pornography, especially in the context of new electronic communications systems (Internet, blogs, etc.), as well as a report on possible links between prostitution, sex tourism and trafficking in human beings, with special reference to children, and asks the EU and Member States to take these factors into consideration when signing agreements with third countries;
12. Calls on the Commission to declare 2006 the European Year against violence against women;
13. Stresses that many health problems only concern women, or impact differently on them; notes, for example, that the specific effects of drugs on women are still not taken into sufficient consideration; emphasises that diseases affecting mainly women, such as osteoporosis and endometriosis, are still not adequately researched or treated and calls on the Commission and Member States to allocate sufficient funds for such research; hopes that measures aimed at fighting HIV/AIDS will be strengthened, in particular among 15-25 year olds in the European Union, the infection rate in this age group having recently increased according to UNAIDS statistics;
14. Welcomes the Commission proposal on lifelong learning, and intends to contribute to its improvement in order to achieve a balanced participation of women in this programme;
15. Hopes that partners in media, advertising, Internet access provision and new communications systems co-operate with users and the authorities as regards not presenting degrading pictures of women, especially via media destined for or viewable by children;

16. Asks the Commission what development aid measures it intends to propose to better involve women as vital partners in the various projects; requests that the Member States ensure respect for women's rights in their relations with third countries;
17. Calls on the European Commission to focus its co-operation and development programs with developing countries on the education of women, and on raising awareness as regards their sexual health and reproductive rights;
18. Calls on the Commission to award special attention to the vulnerable situation of women in conflict-torn areas such as Kivu, (Eastern province of the Republic of Congo), Iraq and Darfur (Sudan), where women are still subject to various forms of harassment and violence on a daily basis; reiterates its opposition to the death penalty, and more specifically those enforced against women, in Iran and other countries, accused of having children out of wedlock; expects the Iranian authorities to enact the promised legislation to prohibit use of the death penalty against people below the age of 18;
19. Requests that Member States adopt legislation, or apply effectively their existing laws to stop female genital mutilations being perpetrated on their territory, and help third countries concerned to set up programmes with local NGOs to combat such practices;
20. Requests that the Commission draft a report on the implementation of the Beijing Action Platform in the EU countries and propose a follow-up strategy that includes the indicators set out by the various EU Presidencies;
21. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Governments and Parliaments of the Member States and the Secretary General of the United Nations.