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Committee on Culture and Education

2007/2065(INI)

25.6.2007

OPINION

of the Committee on Culture and Education

for the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

on equality between women and men in the European Union – 2007
(2007/2065(INI))

Draftswoman: Karin Resetarits

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Welcomes the culture of equality in the EU including the Commission's Roadmap for Equality and the Council's Pact for Gender Equality and calls for its implementation with concrete measures and financial resources;
2. Appreciates the potential of social cohesion policy for promoting equality;
3. Notes that women continue to occupy few decision-making positions;
4. Stresses that the greatest increase in women's employment is mostly accounted for by jobs with low pay and insecure employment contracts and that the gender pay gap remains up to 30 % in some European countries; welcomes, therefore, measures to help women enter equally the labour market and to promote female entrepreneurship and insists on removing the existing prejudices and gender discrimination concerning the competitiveness and employability of women, especially in high-scale jobs;
5. Highlights that long term unemployment is proportionally higher among the women; that responsibility for children aged 5 and less is connected with higher rate of unemployment compared to childless women;
6. Recommends that the different needs regarding the development of girls and boys should be taken into account to a greater extent in education, and that stereotypes should be counteracted in doing so;
7. Considers that the labour market in most EU countries does not adequately reflect higher average educational levels and better academic performance of women;
8. Recommends working towards ensuring that school education promotes knowledge and sensible criteria in order to make it possible to achieve freedom, personal autonomy, as well as equity so as to reach social inclusion; so called key competences, such as entrepreneurial attitude and a scientific and technological approach should be reinforced, especially among women;
9. Insists that women must be supported in their professional careers, and consequently urges pushing ahead with measures to ensure that working and family life can be reconciled by both sexes and to encourage men to take on family responsibilities; urges the Commission and the Member States to take serious measures to reduce the gender pay gap and to promote parental leave for men as well as paternity leave;
10. Points out that more high-quality, flexible and wide range (public and private) childcare facilities must be provided, which are accessible to the whole population, in order to ease men and women into working life after parental leave and to allow work and family life to be reconciled;

11. Stresses the need for training measures during parental leave in order to cope with changed job requirements;
12. Recommends the development of pan-European measures to increase awareness of zero tolerance for sexist insults and degrading representations of women in the media and in commercial communication;
13. Points out the importance of ensuring that immigrants entering the EU are aware of the values and existing laws and social conventions on gender equality in the host countries' societies so as to avoid situations of discrimination which result from a lack of cultural awareness;
14. Believes that the media should highlight the role of women in society as well as examples of situations where gender equality and work-life balance has been achieved; calls on the Commission to raise awareness of the role of women in society in the media and to promote equal opportunities, through, for example, the Media 2007 programme.

PROCEDURE

Title	Equality between women and men in the European Union - 2007
Procedure number	2007/2065(INI)
Committee responsible	FEMM
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	CULT 26.4.2007
Enhanced cooperation – date announced in plenary	
Drafts(wo)man Date appointed	Karin Resetarits 10.4.2007
Previous drafts(wo)man	
Discussed in committee	18.6.2007
Date adopted	25.6.2007
Result of final vote	+: 24 -: 1 0:
Members present for the final vote	Ivo Belet, Guy Bono, Marie-Hélène Descamps, Věra Flasarová, Milan Gaľa, Ovidiu Victor Ganț, Luis Herrero-Tejedor, Ruth Hieronymi, Sándor Kónya-Hamar, Manolis Mavrommatis, Marianne Mikko, Viorica-Pompilia-Georgeta Moisuc, Doris Pack, Christa Prets, Karin Resetarits, Pál Schmitt, Nikolaos Sifunakis, Hannu Takkula, Salvatore Tatarella, Henri Weber, Thomas Wise, Tomáš Zatloukal
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Emine Bozkurt, Erna Hennicot-Schoepges, Mary Honeyball
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	
Comments (available in one language only)	...