

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1396/04  
by Joke Swiebel (PSE)  
to the Council

Subject: European Gender Institute

On a number of occasions, the European Parliament has asked the Commission to adopt a position on the feasibility study of the Gender Institute and to seek Parliament's opinion on it (EP resolution on the implementation of the gender equality programme, P5\_TA(2002)0372<sup>1</sup> of 4 July 2002, Paragraph 3, and EP resolution on equal opportunities for women and men in the European Union, P5\_TA-PROV(2004)0023 of 14 January 2004, Paragraph 15).

So far the Commission has not responded. In the meantime, the EP itself has had a second feasibility study carried out on the 'Role of a future European Gender Institute' (<http://www.europarl.eu.int/meetdocs/committees/femm/20040406/en.pdf>), which was debated by the EP's Committee on Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities on 7 April 2004. On that occasion the Presidency expressed a favourable attitude to the idea, and indeed the previous day Minister O'Dea had spoken positively about it at the meeting of the Network of Parliamentary Committees for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men (NCEO).

Will the Council now inform Parliament of its intentions, bearing in mind, inter alia, the meeting of Equality Ministers in Limerick on 7 May 2004, at which this issue will be on the agenda?

Does not the Council consider, incidentally, that the name 'Gender Institute' is liable to cause unnecessary misunderstandings and that it would be better to call it the 'Sex Equality Institute'? After all, the intention is that such an institute should gather reliable and comparable data on the position of men and women in the Member States and on the effectiveness of the policy measures taken at European and national level to achieve equality between the sexes.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C 271 E, 12.11.2003, p. 590.