

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

2005/0107(COD)

5.10.2005

OPINION

of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

for the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council
on the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All (2007) - Towards a Just
Society
(COM(2005)0225 – C6-0178/2005 – 2005/0107(COD))

Draftswoman: Eva-Britt Svensson

PA_Leg

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality calls on the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following amendments in its report:

Text proposed by the Commission¹

Amendments by Parliament

Amendment 1 Recital 2

Non-discrimination is a fundamental principle of the European Union. **Article 21 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union** prohibits discrimination on a variety of grounds.

Non-discrimination is a fundamental principle of the European Union. **Article 13 of the Treaty establishing the European Community** prohibits discrimination on a variety of grounds, **as does Article 21 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.**

Justification

The Charter of Fundamental Rights is not yet binding. Accordingly, it is more appropriate to refer also to Article 13 of the ECT, which establishes the principle that all forms of discrimination are to be combated.

Amendment 2 Recital 7

European legislation has significantly raised the level of guaranteed equality and protection against inequalities and discrimination across the EU and acted as a catalyst for the development of a more coherent, rights-based approach to equality and non-discrimination.

European legislation has significantly raised the level of guaranteed equality and protection against inequalities and discrimination across the EU and acted as a catalyst for the development of a more coherent, rights-based approach to equality and non-discrimination. ***Despite this fact, citizens in the EU still encounter discrimination and unequal treatment in their daily lives.***

¹ OJ C ..., 19.9.2005, p. ...

Amendment 3
Recital 7 a (new)

(7a) Gender equality is not a question of a minority group facing inequality. Gender inequality predominantly affects the majority of the population, and it is essential that differences based on gender be taken fully into account in action in relation to age, disability, religion or belief, race and sexual orientation.

Amendment 4
Recital 8

(8) Key to the successful impact of the Community non-discrimination legislative framework is the extent to which it enjoys broad popular support. The European Year should act as a catalyst in raising awareness and in building momentum. It should help to focus political attention and mobilise everyone concerned in order to drive forward the new equal opportunities framework strategy of the European Union.

(8) Key to the successful impact of the Community non-discrimination legislative framework is the extent to which it enjoys broad popular support. The European Year should act as a catalyst in raising awareness and in building momentum. It should help to focus political attention and mobilise everyone concerned in order to drive forward the new equal opportunities framework strategy of the European Union ***and gender mainstreaming.***

Amendment 5
Recital 9

The varying levels of progress made at national level and the differing national socio-economic, and cultural contexts and sensitivities call for the bulk of activities of the Year to be decentralised at national level, through a system of indirect centralised management in accordance with the procedures as laid down in article 54(2)(c) of the Financial Regulation and its implementing rules.

The varying levels of progress made at national level and the differing national socio-economic, and cultural contexts and sensitivities call for the bulk of activities of the Year to be decentralised at national level, through a system of indirect centralised management in accordance with the procedures as laid down in article 54(2)(c) of the Financial Regulation and its implementing rules. ***In particular, social partners and relevant non-governmental organisations must be encouraged to***

participate in order to attain the objectives.

Amendment 6
Article 2, point (a)

(a) Rights – Raising awareness on the right to equality and non-discrimination - The European Year will highlight the message that all people, irrespective of their sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age and sexual orientation are entitled to equal treatment.

(a) Rights - Raising awareness on the right to equality and non-discrimination (***most Community legislation on equality - that is, more than ten directives - is gender equality legislation***) - The European Year will highlight the message that all people, irrespective of their sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age and sexual orientation are entitled to equal ***opportunities and*** treatment.

Amendment 7
Article 2, point (b)

(b) Representation – Stimulating a debate on ways to increase the participation of under-represented groups in society – The European Year will encourage reflection and discussion on the need to promote their greater participation in society in all sectors and at all levels.

(b) Representation - Stimulating a debate on ways to increase the participation of under-represented groups in society - The European Year will encourage reflection and discussion on the need to promote their greater participation in society in all sectors and at all levels, ***taking into account the fact that women make up more than half the population of the European Union and are under-represented in all sectors of decision-making and at all levels.***

Amendment 8
Article 2, point (c)

(c) Recognition – Celebrating and accommodating diversity – The European Year will highlight the positive contribution that people, irrespective of their sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or beliefs, capacities, age and sexual orientation can

(c) Recognition - Celebrating and accommodating diversity - The European Year will highlight the positive contribution that people, irrespective of their sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or beliefs, capacities, age and sexual orientation can

make to society as a whole, in particular by accentuating the benefits of diversity.

make to society as a whole, in particular by accentuating the benefits of diversity. ***The contribution to society of women of all ages and groups (especially Roma women) is considerable and yet widely underestimated.***

Amendment 9
Article 2, point (d)

(d) Respect and tolerance – Promoting a more cohesive society –The European Year will raise awareness about the importance of, promoting good relations between all in society, and in particular among young people, and promoting and disseminating the values underlying the fight against discrimination.

(d) Respect and tolerance - Promoting a more cohesive ***and responsible*** society - The European Year will raise awareness about the importance of ***eliminating stereotypes, prejudice and violence***, promoting good relations between all in society and in particular among young people, and promoting and disseminating the values underlying the fight against discrimination, ***in particular the responsibility for this which rests with members of the public and civic organisations.***

Amendment 10
Article 2, paragraph 1 a (new)

1a. In all the activities referred to in paragraph 1, the elimination of inequalities and the promotion of equality between men and women shall be a horizontal aim.

Amendment 11
Article 3, paragraph 1, point (c)

(c) cooperation with media, business and enterprise;

(c) cooperation with media, business and enterprise ***at local, regional and national level and non-governmental organisations active in the field of combating discrimination;***

Amendment 12
Article 4, paragraph 3

It shall conduct a regular exchange of views with stakeholders particularly at European level on the design, implementation **and** follow-up of the European Year. To that end, the Commission shall make the relevant information available to such stakeholders. The Commission shall inform the Committee established under Article 6(1) of their opinion.

It shall conduct a regular exchange of views with stakeholders particularly at European level on the design, implementation, follow-up **and assessment** of the European Year. To that end, the Commission shall make the relevant information available to such stakeholders. The Commission shall inform the Committee established under Article 6(1) of their opinion.

Justification

Stakeholders in the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All must be able to participate fully not only in the design and implementation of the objectives of the European Year but also in its assessment.

Amendment 13
Article 5, paragraph 1, subparagraph 2

Each State shall ensure that this body is involved in the design, definition **and** execution of the National Policy Plan to be submitted to the Commission by 31 December 2006 at the latest. National Policy Plans shall consist of translating the objectives set out in Article 2 into the national and cultural contexts.

Each State shall ensure that this body is involved in the design, definition, execution **and assessment** of the National Policy Plan to be submitted to the Commission by 31 December 2006 at the latest. National Policy Plans shall consist of translating the objectives set out in Article 2 into the national and cultural contexts.

Justification

The body responsible at national level for the implementation of the European Year should be involved not only in the design of the National Policy Plan which implements the objectives stated for the European Year but also in its assessment at national level.

Amendment 14
Article 6, paragraph 1

1. The Commission shall be assisted by a committee, composed of one representative per State and chaired by a representative of the Commission. The representative per State shall be designated from the national intermediary body as referred to in Article 5(2).

1. The Commission shall be assisted by a committee, composed of one representative per State **and a few representatives of relevant international organisations** and chaired by a representative of the Commission. The representative per State shall be designated from the national intermediary body as referred to in Article 5(2).

Amendment 15
Article 6, paragraph 1 a (new)

1a. The Commission and the Member States shall ensure that women and men are equally represented on the Committee.

Amendment 16
Article 7, paragraph 1

1. Measures which are Community-wide in nature, as described in Part I of the Annex, may be subsidised up to 80% or give rise to procurement contracts financed from the general budget of the European Communities.

1. Measures which are Community-wide in nature - ***including initiatives of relevant international organisations*** - as described in Part I of the Annex, may be subsidised up to 80% or give rise to procurement contracts financed from the general budget of the European Communities.

Amendment 17
Article 12

Within the framework of the European Year, the Commission ***may*** cooperate with the relevant international organisations.

Within the framework of the European Year, the Commission ***shall*** cooperate with the relevant international organisations.

Amendment 18
Annex, title I, point 3, paragraph 1

Cooperation with corporate, broadcasting and media organisations in particular as

Cooperation with ***non-governmental***, corporate, broadcasting and media

partners spreading the information about the European Year

organisations in particular as partners spreading the information about the European Year

Justification

Non-governmental organisations should be fully fledged partners in the implementation of the European Year and fully involved in spreading information about it among the general public.

Amendment 19
Annex, title II, paragraph 5, point (c)

(c) Cooperation with corporate, broadcasting and media organisations in particular as partners spreading the information about the European Year at national level

(c) Cooperation with **nongovernmental**, corporate, broadcasting and media organisations in particular as partners spreading the information about the European Year at national level

Justification

Non-governmental organisations should be fully fledged partners in the implementation of the European Year and fully involved in spreading information about it among the general public.

Amendment 20
Annex, section II, paragraph 1, point (e a) (new)

(ea) has an equal representation of women and men

PROCEDURE

Title	Proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All (2007) - Towards a Just Society
References	COM(2005)0225 – C6-0178/2005 – 2005/0107(COD)
Committee responsible	LIBE
Committee asked for its opinion Date announced in plenary	FEMM 6.9.2005
Enhanced cooperation	No
Draftsman Date appointed	Eva-Britt Svensson 31.8.2005
Discussed in committee	15.9.2005 5.10.2005
Date amendments adopted	5.10.2005
Result of final vote	for: 25 against: 0 abstentions: 1
Members present for the final vote	Edit Bauer, Hiltrud Breyer, Edite Estrela, Claire Gibault, Lissy Gröner, Zita Gurmai, Anneli Jäätteenmäki, Lívia Járóka, Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou, Urszula Krupa, Pia Elda Locatelli, Astrid Lulling, Angelika Niebler, Marie Panayotopoulos-Cassiotou, Marie-Line Reynaud, Teresa Riera Madurell, Raül Romeva i Rueda, Amalia Sartori, Eva-Britt Svensson, Britta Thomsen, Corien Wortmann-Kool, Anna Záborská
Substitutes present for the final vote	Anna Hedh, Mary Honeyball, Sophia in 't Veld, Karin Resetarits
Substitutes under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	