

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

2006/2240(INI)

24.1.2007

OPINION

of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

for the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

on promoting decent work for all
(2006/2240(INI))

Draftswoman: Amalia Sartori

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Declares that all jobs are dignified provided that workers' rights are respected: fair and equal wages for equal work, irrespective of gender, adequate payment of insurance and social security contributions and a safe and healthy working environment;
2. Calls on the Member States and businesses, in cooperation with the social partners and on the basis of Community legislation on the health and safety of workers, to adopt preventive strategies and implement measures designed to protect maternity and improve health and safety at work for pregnant workers and workers who have recently given birth or are breastfeeding;
3. Stresses that the concept of decent work also involves a decent retirement and the entitlements pertaining thereto;
4. Furthermore, states that there can be no decent work without equality between the sexes and emphasises in particular the requirement that equal work must be rewarded by equal pay;
5. Stresses that decent work calls for any kind of violence at work to be prevented, with particular reference - owing to its greater incidence and impact - to violence (both physical and psychological) relating to the victim's sex;
6. Stresses the need to improve the transparency of labour markets, so that all kinds of work (temporary, permanent, full-time, part-time, hourly paid) are official, decently paid, and that they fully respect workers' rights, core labour standards, social dialogue, social protection (including health and safety at work) and gender equality;
7. Encourages businesses to adopt responsible, non-discriminatory recruitment and professional development policies in order to boost the employment of women and the disadvantaged on the labour market;
8. Points out that special attention should be paid to the employment of women, with regard to which the regulations are still not being fully complied with in many cases and the indices of which are less favourable in both quantitative and qualitative terms than those relating to the employment of men, and to creating an environment enabling women to balance work and family life;
9. Recommends that businesses take initiatives to promote greater participation and representation of women on bodies involved in social dialogue, a strategic goal of the concept of decent work;
10. Calls upon the Member States which have not yet done so to incorporate into their domestic law provisions which make bullying and sexual harassment an offence;

11. Criticises the fact that gender mainstreaming is not adequately taken into account in the Commission's approach on promoting decent work for all; highlights the lack of suitable gender equality indicators and the systematic absence of information on wage differentials and 'glass ceilings';
12. Stresses the importance of promoting working relations in which gender issues are duly regulated for all and in every sector, in both the EU's relations and cooperation programmes with the regions and with non-member states, with the aim of achieving equal opportunities for women and men and awareness of the gender dimension on the labour market;
13. Calls on the Commission, in cooperation with the social partners and the ILO, to encourage female entrepreneurs to set up and develop businesses inside and outside the EU as part of the policy of development cooperation;
14. Stresses the need to outlaw enforced part-time working (which mainly affects women) and working hours which are detrimental to family life because they are disjointed or excessively spread out;
15. Stresses the need for greater efforts to be made with regard to vocational training through the introduction in particular of appropriate personalised monitoring for employees at every stage of their working lives;
16. Recommends that ways be explored to increase the desirability of jobs now considered too heavy or menial (domestic help, family assistance, caring for the elderly, personal services, etc.);
17. Stresses the importance, therefore, of seeking practical strategies for promoting occupations which, for reasons of culture or 'social image', are stigmatised as being difficult and dangerous jobs, and as such are often not governed by the law and without any social protection;
18. Stresses that support should be given to the efforts of the Member States to coordinate their activities and exchange best practices in order to achieve these objectives.

PROCEDURE

| | |
|---|---|
| Title | Promoting decent work for all |
| Procedure number | 2006/2240(INI) |
| Committee responsible | EMPL |
| Opinion delivered by Date announced in plenary | FEMM 28.9.2006 |
| Enhanced cooperation Date announced in plenary | |
| Draftswoman Date appointed | Amalia Sartori 11.10.2006 |
| Previous draftsman | |
| Discussed in committee | 19.12.2006 24.1.2007 |
| Date adopted | 24.1.2007 |
| Result of final vote | +: 30 -: 0 0: 0 |
| Members present for the final vote | Edit Bauer, Maria Carlshamre, Edite Estrela, Ilda Figueiredo, Věra Flasarová, Claire Gibault, Lissy Gröner, Zita Gurmai, Esther Herranz García, Anneli Jäätteenmäki, Lívia Járóka, Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou, Urszula Krupa, Pia Elda Locatelli, Angelika Niebler, Siiri Oviir, Marie Panayotopoulos-Cassiotou, Christa Prets, Marie-Line Reynaud, Teresa Riera Madurell, Eva-Britt Svensson, Britta Thomsen, Corien Wortmann-Kool, Anna Záborská |
| Substitute(s) present for the final vote | Lidia Joanna Geringer de Oedenberg, Christa Klaß, Zita Pleštinská, Bernadette Vergnaud |
| Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote | Jean Lambert, Elisabeth Schroedter |
| Comments (available in one language only) | ... |