

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

2007/2261(INI)

29.2.2008

OPINION

of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

for the Committee on Culture and Education

on the White paper on Sport
(2007/2261(INI))

Draftswoman: Pia Elda Locatelli

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

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

- A. whereas, despite some progress having been made in the area of gender equality at European level, inequities between men and women in sports continue to persist,
- B. whereas women are underrepresented at all hierarchical and administrative levels in sports,
 1. Calls on the Member States to proffer comparable support and opportunities for physical education and sport for both women and men, by providing for sports programmes that are more egalitarian in order to correct the present imbalances;
 2. Welcomes the Commission's White Paper on Sport, which addresses sport-related issues in a comprehensive manner; regrets, however, that the gender aspect is not adequately taken into account, especially regarding equal pay for equal value and the fact that female women athletes earn less than their male counterparts;
 3. Takes note of the Commission's support for the right to information and wide access for citizens to broadcasts of sports events;
 4. Refers to analyses showing that the focus of only 10 % of all reports and sports coverage concern women; calls on the Commission to pursue the principle of equal treatment between women and men also in terms of the reporting of sport in the media;
 5. Calls on the Member States to monitor the use of public funds earmarked for sport and to check that these are allocated equally to the needs of sportswomen and sportsmen;
 6. Calls on the Member States and sporting organisations to provide career opportunities for women in fields linked to the world of sport, including in decision-making posts;
 7. Calls on the Member States to promote women's sporting activities, not just at a very early age, but throughout their whole lives, including old age, because, as people live longer, the active part of their lives lasts longer too;
 8. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to improve the protection of women in sports through the promotion of effective preventive policies, awareness-raising programs and severe sanctioning of sexual harassment and abuse in sports;
 9. Calls on the Member States to encourage media coverage of women's sporting activities in order to foster the emergence of female role models and overcome gender stereotyping;
 10. Calls on the Member States to give recognition to sporting successes achieved by women in the same way as those achieved by men; stresses the importance of non-discriminatory rules governing sports competitions, by fixing equivalent prizes for men and women;

11. Emphasises that women and men who participate in non-professional competitive sport receive no state protection in respect of health, social security or injury, or maternity or paternity support, and calls on the Member States to introduce measures to ensure adequate protection;
12. Stresses the importance of medical advice for women on the potential benefits to be gained from physical activity during pregnancy and after childbirth, such as improved blood circulation and a reduction in some of the discomfort experienced during pregnancy, such as constipation and fatigue, as well as a reduction in stress and physical and emotional tension;
13. Calls on the Member States to give greater standing to sporting activities in school curricula for boys and girls, in order to encourage and educate them to participate in sporting activities while also promoting access to sports careers and advancement therein;
14. Points out that banning girls from taking part in sports, swimming or school tuition due to cultural diversity are not justified by any culture or religion and must not be tolerated;
15. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to step up prevention and health checks for young sportspeople and ensure that all the rights enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child are respected;
16. Calls on the Member States to support the functioning of sporting organisations, clubs and associations providing sporting activity for senior citizens, particularly women;
17. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to combat the exploitation of girls and boys in sports and child trafficking by strictly enforcing existing laws and rules; suggests that a higher level of legal security, in particular in the application of the 'home-grown players rule', is desirable.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	27.2.2008
Result of final vote	+: 30 -: 0 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Edit Bauer, Emine Bozkurt, Hiltrud Breyer, Edite Estrela, Ilda Figueiredo, Věra Flasarová, Livia Járóka, Piia-Noora Kauppi, Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou, Urszula Krupa, Roselyne Lefrançois, Astrid Lulling, Siiri Oviir, Marie Panayotopoulos-Cassiotou, Zita Pleštinšká, Anni Podimata, Teresa Riera Madurell, Eva-Britt Svensson, Anne Van Lancker, Anna Záborská
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Lidia Joanna Geringer de Oedenberg, Ana Maria Gomes, Donata Gottardi, Anna Hedh, Elisabeth Jeggle, Marusya Ivanova Lyubcheva, Maria Petre
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Manolis Mavrommatis, Milan Gaľa, Tunne Kelam, Małgorzata Handzlik