

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

2008/2063(INI)

27.5.2008

OPINION

of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

for the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

on Parliament's new role and new responsibilities under the Treaty of Lisbon
(2008/2063(INI))

Draftswoman (*): Claire Gibault

(*) Associated committee - Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

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SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Notes with satisfaction that equality between women and men has been included among the Union's values (Article 2 of the TEU) and aims (Article 3(3), second subparagraph, of the TEU);
2. Welcomes the broadening of the scope of the principle of gender mainstreaming, which in future will apply to all Union measures, as a result of the decision to devote a specific article among the general implementing provisions (Article 8 of the TFEU) to this principle, so that it becomes a genuine horizontal provision applicable to all areas of Union action;
3. Welcomes the fact that Articles 8, 9 and 10 of the TFEU clearly stipulate that all EU policies have to actively promote social inclusion, social protection, equality between women and men and non-discrimination;
4. Calls, consequently, for a dual approach that complements gender mainstreaming in practice, i.e. positive actions as well as clear and binding targets and measures;
5. Welcomes the new procedure laid down in Article 19 of the TFEU, which stipulates that Parliament must henceforth give its consent to the adoption by the Council (unfortunately still acting unanimously) of measures to combat all forms of discrimination on the basis of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation;
6. Welcomes the fact that the ordinary legislative procedure will cover measures to combat trafficking in human beings, in particular women and children, and sexual exploitation (Articles 79(2)(d) and 83(1), second subparagraph, of the TFEU);
7. Welcomes the fact that the same legal value as the Treaties is now given to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (Article 6 of the TEU), which does not prevent the maintenance or adoption of measures providing for specific advantages in favour of the under-represented sex and provides for better maternity protection, particularly at work (Articles 23, 33 and 34 of the Charter);
8. Takes the view that these new provisions will make it possible for the Commission to submit to the Council and Parliament, without delay, legislative proposals designed to make the various Community policies to combat the trafficking of women and children for the purposes of sexual exploitation more readily understandable and more effective;
9. Calls on the Commission to provide it, within three years following the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon, with an initial assessment of the impact of that Treaty in the Member States on the fight against the trafficking of human beings, in particular women and children, for the purposes of sexual exploitation;

10. Welcomes Declaration 19 on Article 8 of the TFEU calling on the Member States to take all necessary measures to prevent and punish all forms of violence and to support and protect the victims of violence.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	27.5.2008
Result of final vote	+: 23 -: 4 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Edit Bauer, Emine Bozkurt, Věra Flasarová, Claire Gibault, Esther Herranz García, Anneli Jäätteenmäki, Livia Járóka, Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou, Urszula Krupa, Siiri Oviir, Marie Panayotopoulos-Cassiotou, Zita Pleštinšká, Teresa Riera Madurell, Raül Romeva i Rueda, Eva-Britt Svensson, Corien Wortmann-Kool, Anna Záborská
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Gabriela Crețu, Iratxe García Pérez, Lidia Joanna Geringer de Oedenberg, Mary Honeyball, Kartika Tamara Liotard, Marusya Ivanova Lyubcheva, Zuzana Roithová, Petya Stavreva, Bernadette Vergnaud
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Ewa Tomaszewska