

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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2009

Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

2008/2231(INI)

2.12.2008

OPINION

of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs

on relations between the European Union and Mediterranean countries
(2008/2231(INI))

Rapporteur: Ilda Figueiredo

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Urges the Member States and all the Mediterranean partners involved in the Barcelona Process to give more consideration to the situation of women and equal opportunities for men and women, and stresses the importance of incorporating the gender perspective into all policies and practical measures promoting equality between men and women;
2. Calls on all States taking part in the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean to ratify both the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and all other United Nations and International Labour Organisation human rights instruments;
3. Regrets that no special consideration has been given to the situation of women in the Commission communication entitled 'Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean' and stresses that the 'projects' dimension should include the promotion of geographical, economic and social cohesion and always take into account the issue of equal opportunities for men and women and the gender perspective;
4. Expresses its concern about the poverty and social exclusion, which seriously affect women and children, and warns against the impact of policies which do not take due account of the need to promote equal rights and opportunities for men and women, with due respect for the dignity of women;
5. Stresses that it is essential for women who have migrated from third countries, including those along the southern shores of the Mediterranean, to Member States to be granted citizenship rights, in order to ensure the effective protection of their rights;
6. Calls on all participants in the Barcelona Process to give special consideration to the establishment and public funding of projects to improve women's living conditions, particularly in the fields of sexual and reproductive health and education, the creation of quality jobs with rights specifically geared to women and the construction of facilities to provide support for children and older people which foster women's inclusion in society;
7. Stresses the importance of promoting access by women to all levels of the education system, since a properly skilled workforce plays a decisive role not only in reducing gender inequalities but also in enhancing the competitiveness and social cohesion of an entire economy;
8. Urges the Member States and partners in the Barcelona Process to promote positive measures in the field of equal opportunities and combating discrimination against women in all areas, with special reference to employment, family life and education, with the aim of preventing violence against women and trafficking in human beings, and ensuring respect for and the promotion of the role of women in society, including by facilitating their access to positions of responsibility and decision-making positions;

9. Points out that fostering women's involvement in the labour market in the Mediterranean area means developing the facilities and services required to ensure that women not only gain access to the labour market but are also able to remain in employment;
10. Points to the need for closer links between women's associations in the Mediterranean countries, with a view to fostering the development of civil society and the active involvement of women.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	2.12.2008
Result of final vote	+ : 17 - : 0 0 : 0
Members present for the final vote	Edit Bauer, Ilda Figueiredo, Claire Gibault, Lissy Gröner, Urszula Krupa, Pia Elda Locatelli, Astrid Lulling, Siiri Oviir, Zita Pleštinská, Anni Podimata, Teresa Riera Madurell, Raül Romeva i Rueda, Anne Van Lancker, Corien Wortmann-Kool, Anna Záborská
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Donata Gottardi
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Juan Andrés Naranjo Escobar