

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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2009

Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

2008/2234(INI)

20.1.2009

OPINION

of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

for the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

on problems and prospects concerning European citizenship
(2008/2234(INI))

Rapporteur: Marie Panayotopoulos-Cassiotou

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SUGGESTIONS

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 suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Underlines the importance of consistently taking into consideration the principle of equality between women and men and promoting equal opportunities in all Union policies and actions;
2. Stresses that there can be no genuine European citizenship unless the principle of gender equality is recognised and applied;
3. Recalls that the concept of citizenship contributes to European integration, by involving both women and men in the process;
4. Regrets that, once again, the Commission has failed to incorporate the gender dimension in its Fifth Report on Citizenship of the Union and in its summary of the advances made in areas closely related to citizenship; notes that, for that reason, it is very difficult to have a comprehensive gender assessment and guidelines on the topic;
5. Stresses that the right of free movement and residence, which plays a full part in European citizenship, has a tremendous impact on family life and women's educational and professional choices; therefore, invites the Commission to take into consideration women's specific needs in this field;
6. Stresses the significance for women of the directives relating to the right of residence of Union citizens who are students, not economically active or retired, which were repealed by Directive 2004/38/EC and notes the importance of information about these rights, pointing out that the 16 000 copies of the brochure on how to take advantage of Directive 2004/38/EC issued in 19 languages represent a very small number compared to the total number of the Union's inhabitants;
7. Calls on enhanced participation of women in political life and in the decision-making process with a view to European integration; to this end, women should benefit from reinforced awareness-raising campaigns in order to fully exercise their rights as Union citizens and to be more active within political groups, political life and the activities of local authorities in their countries of residence;
8. Notes that involvement in politics is an important expression of citizenship which could be encouraged among women by concrete measures such as increasing and improving childcare facilities for young children;
9. Calls on the Commission to reinforce information programmes on Union citizenship in order to fully inform children, and especially young girls and women in educational institutions, particularly in geographically and socially disadvantaged regions; calls for these European citizenship promotion programmes to place particular emphasis on the principle of equality between men and women;

10. Calls for increased consular protection for European citizens in third countries, particularly with a view to protecting their lives, dignity and integrity.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	20.1.2009
Result of final vote	+: 20 -: 0 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Edit Bauer, Emine Bozkurt, Hiltrud Breyer, Edite Estrela, Ilda Figueiredo, Claire Gibault, Anneli Jäätteenmäki, Lívia Járóka, Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou, Urszula Krupa, Roselyne Lefrançois, Siiri Oviir, Marie Panayotopoulos-Cassiotou, Zita Pleštinská, Eva-Britt Svensson, Anna Záborská
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Gabriela Crețu, Iratxe García Pérez, Anna Hedh, Mary Honeyball, Maria Petre