



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

2013/2146(INI)

23.10.2013

OPINION

of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs

on the EU comprehensive approach and its implications for the coherence of
EU external action
(2013/2146(INI))

Rapporteur: Minodora Cliveti

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. Welcomes the Commission's work, both at the policy level and through its funding instruments and budget support mechanisms, aimed at stepping up its commitment to foster women's empowerment, particularly by seeking to integrate the priorities and needs of women in all key areas of EU external action;
2. Stresses the importance of making funds available for initiatives enabling women to participate and take leadership in reconstructing community life and providing access to infrastructure such as water supply, electricity, schools, hospitals and roads, as well as in (re)building the legal and administrative structures of the state;
3. Calls on the EEAS to increase its capacity to ensure a gender balance when making proposals for positions as Heads of Delegation;
4. Invites the Commission and the Member States to take active measures in the framework of the CFSP, including the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights, to promote non-discrimination and prevent multiple discrimination as regards gender, ethnic origin, disability, religion, age and sexual orientation;
5. Stresses the importance of including women and NGOs promoting women's rights already in the drafting phase of EU external policies, particularly by providing training on gender-related issues in the EEAS and in EU delegations in third countries;
6. Stresses the role of women in leveraging development policies by participating in the formulation and implementation of such policies, thereby ensuring that political and economic negotiations take women's interests into account and creating a virtuous circle in which women are the driving force behind development policies;
7. Stresses the need to ensure that the right of young girls to express an opinion and to be heard on matters affecting their health and human dignity is respected, emphasising that the best interests of the child must be the first concern; highlights the need of all children, and of young girls in particular, to be brought up in a family environment of peace, dignity, tolerance, freedom, non-discrimination, gender equality and solidarity; calls for the strict implementation of the Geneva Declaration of the Rights of the Child and of the Beijing Declaration on Women;
8. Calls on the EEAS to make every possible effort to stop formal child marriages in countries where this practice is widespread;
9. Underlines the low level of female participation in politics and systems of governance, including in various national negotiating and mediation boards; stresses the need to review institutional mechanisms with a view to promoting gender equality, and to introduce, if necessary, special temporary measures, such as positive discrimination, preferential treatment and the setting of quotas, in order to enable female participation in

parliamentary and political life in general and in all institutions, missions and relevant national, regional and international processes, including peace-support operations;

- 10 Points out that national governments, as well as sub-regional, regional and international organisations, should support any public, community or private initiatives offering women greater access to resources, and greater economic independence, while promoting their entry into business and access to markets and credit, especially in rural areas; highlights the need to ensure that local organisations are given easier access to national and international public funding and to involve women as equals – as participants as well as beneficiaries – in local development programmes, job creation programmes (including youth employment), the provision of frontline services and programmes for economic recovery in conflict areas;
11. Points out that the efforts of women to promote peace are often not recognised, and that extreme suffering is inflicted on women in countries at war;
12. States that assistance measures must take into account the specific features of crises and emergencies, and of countries in which fundamental freedoms are seriously lacking or in which NGOs operate under difficult conditions; encourages the EEAS to determine, with representatives of the populations concerned, a limited number of priorities to be addressed first, foremost and simultaneously, so that funds and resources can be focused on achieving the objectives more effectively; stresses that particular attention should be paid to situations in which women are exposed to physical or psychological violence;
- 13 Emphasises the importance of ending violence against women and girls, taking into account that in some situations of armed conflict, violence against women is widespread and systemic, as when forms of sexual violence – such as rape, forced prostitution, human trafficking or slavery – are used by armed groups as a tactic of warfare to terrorise or displace civilians, or to benefit parties to the conflict;
14. Calls for support systems to be put in place, and investments in specialised services made, in aid of victims of gender-based violence such as rape and trauma perpetrated during conflicts and war;
15. Underlines the importance of strengthening and raising awareness of the role of women in promoting human rights and democratic reform, in supporting conflict prevention, in consolidating political participation and representation, and in all phases of peace negotiations as well as in peace building and post-conflict planning; notes also, in this regard, that the recommendations made in the reports of EU Election Observation Missions concerning women's participation in the electoral process should be taken into account;
16. Points out that the credibility of EU external action depends as well on it being compliant with the principle of consistency between internal policies and development goals.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	21.10.2013
Result of final vote	+: 23 -: 0 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Regina Bastos, Marije Cornelissen, Edite Estrela, Iratxe García Pérez, Zita Gurmai, Mikael Gustafsson, Mary Honeyball, Silvana Koch-Mehrin, Elisabeth Morin-Chartier, Norica Nicolai, Antonyia Parvanova, Joanna Senyszyn, Joanna Katarzyna Skrzydlewska, Britta Thomsen, Inês Cristina Zuber
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, Minodora Cliveti, Rosa Estaràs Ferragut, Mariya Gabriel, Nicole Kiil-Nielsen, Christa Kläß, Antigoni Papadopoulou, Angelika Werthmann