

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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*Committee on Industry, Research and Energy*

**2007/2197(INI)**

27.11.2007

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

for the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

on The role of women in industry  
(2007/2197(INI))

Draftsman: Den Dover

PA\_NonLeg

## SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Is of the opinion that the role of women in any industrial sector cannot be viewed in isolation from the state of industry in the European Union generally, the challenges that industry in the EU is facing or the need for successful answers;
2. Recommends that there should be more flexibility in the workplace, thereby enabling men and women to have greater options for the development of both their family lives and their working careers; believes that temporary work should be much more readily available to men and women to match their changing needs;
3. While expressing concern as to the stagnant domestic demand in a number of Member States, at the increasing imports from outside the EU and some further sectoral job losses in the EU, often affecting women, welcomes the fact that, according to the latest available statistics, exports to countries outside the EU in many sectors have maintained their proportion of total turnover, which is a sign of the competitiveness of the EU in those fields;
4. Calls on the Member States to introduce better, more flexible and portable pensions for women in view of their longer life expectancy and their inability to commit to employers for long periods due to domestic and family duties throughout their working lives; and recalls its position at first reading position on the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on improving the portability of supplementary pension rights<sup>1</sup>;
5. Calls for the widest possible distribution of the Strategic Research Agenda of the European Technology Platform for the Future of Textiles and Clothing and urges all stakeholders to move towards innovative technologies and business models which have a balanced participation of men and women at all levels;
6. Calls, on the one hand, on the Commission and the Member States to draw up and implement policies aimed at reconciling work and private life for men and women, greater flexibility in working hours for men and women and widespread access to child and adult care services, in compliance with the Barcelona objectives, and, on the other hand, for effective technical and, where possible, financial support or incentives for SME employers to implement these policies and practices;
7. Calls on the Commission to promote professional training policies and programmes, including the development of computer literacy skills, aimed at women in order to increase their participation in various sectors of industry, taking into account existing financial support available at local, national and Community levels and creating greater incentives to use these for large companies and SMEs alike;

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<sup>1</sup> Texts adopted, 20.6.2007, P6\_TA(2007)0269.

8. Points out that companies have a general duty to comply with the principle of equality at the workplace, regardless of their size or the sector in which they operate;
9. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to take the necessary measures to guarantee the right to equal opportunities at work, including measures to ensure equality between men and women as regards access to employment, working conditions, training and career progression;
10. Emphasises the fact that the role of women in industry should at all times be based on the principles of equality of salaries and career perspectives in order to promote their wider participation even in fields of industry not stereotypically assigned to women;
11. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to take all necessary measures to ensure protection against sexual and gender-based harassment;
12. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to encourage companies to negotiate and implement an equality programme; notes that in some Member States large companies are obliged to negotiate an equality plan in the framework of a collective agreement;
13. Encourages the Commission and Member States to promote a balanced representation of men and women on the management boards of companies, particularly of companies in which there is Member State participation.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	22.11.2007
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 38 -: 0 0: 0
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Jan Březina, Jerzy Buzek, Pilar del Castillo Vera, Jorgo Chatzimarkakis, Giles Chichester, Den Dover, Nicole Fontaine, Adam Gierek, Norbert Glante, Umberto Guidoni, András Gyürk, David Hammerstein, Erna Hennicot-Schoepges, Ján Hudacký, Romana Jordan Cizelj, Werner Langen, Anne Laperrouze, Eluned Morgan, Angelika Niebler, Reino Paasilinna, Miloslav Ransdorf, Vladimír Remek, Paul Rübig, Andres Tarand, Britta Thomsen, Radu Țîrle, Patrizia Toia, Catherine Trautmann, Claude Turmes, Nikolaos Vakalis, Alejo Vidal-Quadras
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Neena Gill, Eija-Riitta Korhola, Lambert van Nistelrooij, Vladimir Urutchev
<b>Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote</b>	Holger Krahmer, Umberto Pirilli, Carl Schlyter