

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

2007/2156(INI)

21.11.2007

OPINION

of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

for the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

on the demographic future of Europe
(2007/2156(INI))

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs calls on the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

The role of migration

1. Considers that the demographic changes in the EU, the ageing society and the demands of the labour markets require a consistent and coherent migration policy at European level; highlights that legal migration should provide benefits for both the EU and the countries of origin; urges the Member States to develop a common policy on legal migration as called for in its resolution of 26 September 2007¹, especially concerning the clear definition of economic migrants, joint residence/work permits and the possibility for immigrants to transfer their social rights;
2. Considers that integration policies should be strengthened in the EU Member States so as to facilitate the establishment of migrants in the EU; therefore welcomes Council Decision 2007/435/EC of 25 June 2007 establishing the European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals for the period 2007 to 2013 as part of the General programme 'Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows'² and trusts that it will contribute to facilitating the social and economic integration of migrants in the EU;

Families and children

3. Agrees that, besides legal immigration, the increase in the birth rate is a priority; emphasises that this priority can be pursued through efficient family and social policies on fighting poverty of certain families, reducing the number of children at risk of poverty and promoting equal opportunities;
4. Considers that, for the promotion of equal opportunities between men and women and for the assurance of children's rights to family and protection, a more balanced and flexible organisation of work and family life and improved social services are necessary; the different role of men and women in society should however be taken into account;
5. Considers that the family policies of the Member States should, among other things, aim to reduce the inequality of opportunities offered to citizens with and without children, ensure the availability of parental help services in the form of education and care for young children, care and supervision for older children and offer both men and women better opportunities for lifelong learning and for achieving a balance between their private and professional lives;
6. Calls on the Member States to more actively utilise the European Structural Funds to implement various family policies, including support for equal opportunities and the balancing of family and professional life at national, regional and local levels;

¹ P6_TA-PROV(2007)0414.

² OJ L 168, 28.6.2007, p. 18.

Discrimination against older workers

7. Welcomes the fact that the life expectancy of European citizens has grown significantly, and therefore the employment rate of older workers has been rising rapidly since 2000; encourages Member States to develop policies and exchange best practices to favour the employment of older workers;
8. Recalls that Council Directive 2000/78/EC of 27 November 2000 establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation prohibits discrimination on grounds of age in employment and occupation and gives Member States the possibility to take positive action to prevent discrimination and to create equal opportunities;
9. Strongly condemns the discriminatory prejudices which older workers may face; calls on Member States to promote lifelong learning and launch information campaigns aimed at employers on the benefits of hiring older workers.
10. Calls on the Commission to collect segregated statistical data on the various age groups according to the different problems faced and the wide spectrum of discrimination on the grounds of age;
11. Urges the Commission to extend the scope of Directive 2000/78/EC to sectors other than employment and occupation.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	20.11.2007
Result of final vote	+: 37 -: 1 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Philip Bradbourn, Kathalijne Maria Buitenweg, Giuseppe Castiglione, Giusto Catania, Carlos Coelho, Panayiotis Demetriou, Bárbara Dührkop Dührkop, Armando França, Roland Gewalt, Elly de Groen-Kouwenhoven, Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, Livia Járóka, Ewa Klamt, Magda Kósáné Kovács, Wolfgang Kreissl-Dörfler, Esther De Lange, Roselyne Lefrançois, Sarah Ludford, Dan Mihalache, Javier Moreno Sánchez, Bogusław Rogalski, Martine Roure, Inger Segelström, Søren Bo Søndergaard, Károly Ferenc Szabó, Vladimir Urutchev, Manfred Weber, Tatjana Ždanoka
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Edit Bauer, Simon Busuttil, Gérard Deprez, Sophia in 't Veld, Ona Juknevičienė, Sylvia-Yvonne Kaufmann, Mary Lou McDonald, Marianne Mikko, Hubert Pirker
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Louis Grech