

WRITTEN QUESTION P-2804/01
by Fiorella Ghilardotti (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Discrimination in terms of equal opportunities in Competition COM/C/01

Is the Commission aware that, contrary to normal practice until now, Competition COM/C/1/01¹ makes no provision for a derogation to the age limit in respect of women who have stopped working for a number of years following the birth of one or more children?

Does the Commission not consider that this is an obvious case of discrimination against working women, clearly infringing Community law and at odds with the policy of respect for equal opportunities which all the Community institutions have been promoting in recent years?

Does the Commission agree that it should intervene rapidly to remedy this discrimination problem, taking account of the fact that the deadline for applications to take part in the competition is 19 October 2001 and that, in the absence of prompt action to clarify the situation, many women who would be interested in taking part in the competition might be discouraged from doing so, thinking that they do not meet the age requirements, as set out in the notice of competition?

¹ OJ C 251 A, 11.9.2001, p.12.