

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1146/09
by Lidia Joanna Geringer de Oedenberg (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Failure to implement Community equality directives in Poland

All Member States are required to ensure equal treatment of men and women and to implement the equality directives.

However, complaints from many women's movements and organisations reveal that the equality directives (including Directive 2002/73/EC¹ of 23 September 2002, Directive 2004/113/EC² of 13 December 2004 and Council Directive 2000/43/EC³ of 29 June 2000) have not so far been implemented in Poland.

Neither the Department for Women, Family and Counteracting Discrimination of the Polish Ministry for Employment and Social Policy, nor the special government representative for equal treatment, who was only appointed in March 2008, operates as an independent body, with both in the main complying with government policy. For the government, discrimination against women is not a priority and matters relating to equal treatment are treated as secondary. As a result, women do not enjoy the same opportunities as men in many areas of social, private and public life in Poland.

In the light of the abovementioned complaints that the Polish Government is failing to implement equality policy effectively, what specific measures will the Commission take to ensure that Community provisions on equality are properly applied in Poland?

¹ OJ L 269, 5.10.2002, p. 15.

² OJ L 373, 21.12.2004, p. 37.

³ OJ L 180, 91.7.2000, p. 22.