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Committee on Culture and Education

PROVISIONAL
2007/2065(INI)

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DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Culture and Education

for the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

on equality between women and men – 2007
(2007/2065(INI))

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Culture and Education 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. Welcomes the Commission's Roadmap for Equality and the Council's Pact for Gender Equality;
2. Appreciates the potential of cohesion policy for promoting equality;
3. Notes that women continue to occupy few decision-making positions;
4. Stresses that the greatest increase in women's employment is accounted for by jobs with low pay and insecure employment contracts;
5. Recommends that the different needs regarding the development of girls and boys should be taken into account to a greater extent in education, and that stereotypes should be counteracted in doing so;
6. Recommends working towards ensuring that school education promotes an entrepreneurial attitude, especially among women;
7. Insists that women must be supported in their professional careers, and consequently urges pushing ahead with measures to ensure that working and family life can be reconciled;
8. Points out that more high-quality and flexible childcare facilities, which are affordable for all sections of the population, are needed to ease the way for men and women into working life after parental leave;
9. Stresses the need for training measures during parental leave in order to cope with changed job requirements;
10. Recommends the development of pan-European measures to increase awareness of zero tolerance for sexist insults and degrading representations of women in the media and in commercial communication;
11. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to examine carefully how they divide up public revenue and expenditure between men and women, and urges the elimination of gender-specific disadvantages.