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B7-0000/2009

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to Questions for Oral Answer B7-0000/2009 and B7-0000/2009

pursuant to Rule 115(5) of the Rules of Procedure

on Elimination of violence against women

Eva-Britt Svensson

on behalf of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

B7-0000/2009

Elimination of violence against women

European Parliament resolution on Elimination of violence against women

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the provisions of the United Nations legal instruments in the sphere of human rights in particular those concerning women's rights, such as the Charter of the UN, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and its Optional Protocol, and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,
- having regard to other UN instruments on violence against women, such as the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of 25 June 1993¹, the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women of 20 December 1993², the Resolution on the Elimination of Domestic Violence against Women of 22 December 2003³, the Resolution Working towards the elimination of crimes against women committed in the name of honour of 30 January 2003⁴, the Resolution on the elimination of domestic violence against women of 19 February 2004⁵, the Resolution on crime prevention and criminal justice measures to eliminate violence against women of 2 February 1998⁶, the reports by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights' Special Rapporteurs on violence against women, and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women's General Recommendation No 19⁷,
- having regard to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women on 15 September 1995 and its resolutions of 18 May 2000 on the follow-up to the Beijing Action Platform⁸ and of 10 March 2005 on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women - Platform for Action (Beijing+10)⁹,
- having regard to the report of the UN Secretary-General of 6 July 2006 entitled "In-depth study on all forms of violence against women"¹⁰,

¹ Adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, 14-25 June 1993.

² UN General Assembly resolution 48/104.

³ UN General Assembly resolution 58/147.

⁴ UN General Assembly resolution 57/179.

⁵ UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/58/147.

⁶ UN General Assembly resolution 52/86.

⁷ Adopted at the CEDAW's 11th session, 1992.

⁸ OJ C 59, 23.2.2001, p. 258.

⁹ OJ C 320 E, 15.12.2005, p. 247.

¹⁰ A/61/122/Add.1.

- having regard to its resolution of 2 February 2006 on the current situation in combating violence against women and any future action¹,
 - having regard to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union²,
 - having regard to its resolution of 16 September 1997 on the need to establish a European Union wide campaign for zero tolerance of violence against women³,
 - having regard to the UN resolution of 30 January 2007 on intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women⁴,
 - having regard to the Inter-Parliamentary Union resolution on the role of parliaments in combating violence against women⁵,
 - having regard to the questions of .. to the Council and to the Commission on Elimination of violence against women (O-0000/2009 – B7-0000/2009, O-0000/2009 – B7-0000/2009),
 - having regard to Rules 115(5) and 110(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the Beijing UN platform for action defined violence against women as any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty,
 - B. whereas men's violence against women is not only a problem of public health but also a matter of inequality between women and men, which is an area in which the EU has the mandate to take action,
 - C. whereas men's violence against women represent a violation of human rights: the right to life, the right to safety, the right to dignity and the right to physical and mental integrity,
 - D. whereas men's violence against women is an obstacle to the participation of women in social activities and the labour market and can lead to marginalisation and poverty for women,
 - E. whereas domestic violence against women is a structural and widespread problem throughout Europe, a phenomenon affecting people irrespective of age, education, income or social position and is linked to unequal distribution of power between sexes in our society,
 - F. whereas the types of violence against women vary in different cultures and traditions and whereas female genital mutilation, so-called crimes of honour and forced marriages are a reality in the EU,

¹ OJ C 288 E, 25.11.2006, p. 66.

² OJ C 364, 18.12.2000, p. 1.

³ OJ C 304, 6.10.1997, p. 55.

⁴ UN General Assembly resolution 61/143

⁵ Resolution adopted by the 114th Assembly (Nairobi, 12 May 2006)

- G. whereas there is no regular and comparable data collection on different types of violence against women in the EU, which makes it difficult to ascertain the real extent of the phenomenon and find an appropriate solution to this problem,
- H. whereas frequently women do not report men's violence against them because they often lack confidence in the police, juridical system and social services,
- I. whereas Parliament has frequently asked for the creation of a European Year of Elimination of Violence against women,
- J. whereas the UN has declared 25 November as the International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women,
1. Urges the Member States to improve national laws and policies against violence against women, and in particular through the development of comprehensive national action plans against violence against women;
 2. Calls on the Commission to submit to the Council a more coherent EU policy plan against violence against women as stated in the EC Roadmap for Equality between women and men;
 3. Calls on the Commission to declare a European Year against Violence against Women, as repeatedly requested by Parliament;
 4. Calls on the Commission to organise an annual high-level roundtable addressing violence against women;
 5. Recalls that it is still waiting for the results of the Commission study on legislation on gender violence and violence against women;
 6. Calls on the Member States to develop public awareness and information programmes on domestic violence and to reduce the social stereotyping of the position of women in society through education and the media;
 7. Stresses the importance of training for all those working with female victims of violence, including the police, social and legal services;
 8. Urges the Member States to agree on a common basis for collecting statistics on violence against women in close cooperation with the European Gender Institute in order to gather comparable data throughout the EU concerning violence against women;
 9. Urges the Member States to recognise sexual violence within marriage as a crime and to make rape within marriage a criminal offence and not to accept any reference to cultural practices or traditions as a mitigating factor in cases of violence against women, crimes of honour or female genital mutilation;
 10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments of the Member States and to the Secretary General of the United Nations.