


Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	1996/2149(INI)	Procedure completed
The need to establish a European-Union-wide campaign for zero tolerance of violence against women		
Subject 4.10.09 Women condition and rights		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	FEMM Women's Rights	 GUE/NGL ERIKSSON Marianne	02/07/1996

Key events			
03/10/1994	Non-legislative basic document published	B4-0047/1994	
05/09/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
14/07/1997	Vote in committee		Summary
14/07/1997	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0250/1997	
16/09/1997	Debate in Parliament		
16/09/1997	Decision by Parliament	T4-0434/1997	Summary
16/09/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		
06/10/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1996/2149(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 143-p5
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	FEMM/4/08098

Documentation gateway					
Non-legislative basic document		B4-0047/1994	03/10/1994	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0250/1997 OJ C 304 06.10.1997, p. 0006	14/07/1997	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0434/1997 OJ C 304 06.10.1997, p. 0025-0055	16/09/1997	EP	Summary

The need to establish a European-Union-wide campaign for zero tolerance of violence against women

Sexual violence is an expression of the inequality of power ratios in our society and constitutes a huge obstacle to efforts to abolish inequality of the sexes. This was one of the many considerations which persuaded the committee to adopt the report by Mrs ERIKSSON on the need for a European "zero tolerance" campaign on violence against women. The Member States were called upon to make violence against women a criminal act and to adopt specific legislation to protect the victims of sexual violence. The report highlighted the need to set up programmes in schools to make girls and boys aware of the consequences of sexual violence and to promote initiatives to help victims of violence, in particular, of trafficking in women. Those responsible for trafficking in women should be prosecuted and punished and re-educated under suitable national programmes. The report calls on Member States to support and finance independent services for the victims of violence and to set up agencies responsible for obtaining the cooperation of services which help women and the children in their charge to rebuild their lives. Women in third countries who were subject to or threatened with sexual violence should be able to enter the European Union and the Council was called on to adopt provisions in this direction within the framework of immigration policy. A clause on respect for women's rights should also be incorporated in agreements concluded with third countries. The committee called for 1999 to be designated as the European Year Against Violence Against Women and for the Commission to examine the result of campaigns already implemented in the Member States so that the most successful elements could be used for a Europe-wide campaign launched during the European Year Against Violence Against Women. This campaign should be based on the defence of victims, the prevention of violence and the rehabilitation of aggressors. A budget line for the Year Against Violence Against Women and for organizing the campaign should be proposed by the European Commission in order to ensure that sufficient appropriations were available.?

The need to establish a European-Union-wide campaign for zero tolerance of violence against women

In adopting the report by Mrs Marianne ERIKSSON (GUE/NGL, S) on violence against women, Parliament called on the Commission and the Member States of the United Nations to convert the Beijing Declaration into a Convention which was binding on all signatories and to make violence against women a criminal act. It asked the Member States of the Union to introduce specific legislation, outside criminal law in the strict sense of the term, designed to protect victims of gender-based violence and specific provisions against the harassment of women. Similarly, it stressed the importance of removing any obstacles that deterred victims from pursuing cases against their attackers. Consequently, it called on the Member States carefully to revise procedures in this field. Parliament suggested that there should be specific training for all those working with victims and that such training should be compulsory for judges presiding over cases of sexual violence. Programmes in schools aimed at enhancing awareness should also be planned to counteract behaviour which tended to regard women's bodies as objects. It called on the Commission to investigate the link between violence against women and violence against children. It called on the Member States to combat pornography, especially pornography involving children that was available on the Internet. It called on the Commission and on the Member States, in their programmes to combat violence against women, to support initiatives designed to help victims rebuild their lives, to establish 24-hour help lines for women in distress and to support the NGOs involved in this field. It called on both the Commission and the Member States to investigate the role of alcohol in violence against women. It suggested that, in serious cases, women's organizations or appropriate institutions should be allowed to take legal action when the victims were unable to take action. Parliament proposed that funds be earmarked in the Fifth Framework Programme of Research for investigation into the costs of men's violence against women (in terms of health care, housing, social services, lost days at work). Parliament urged the Council of Ministers for Justice and Home Affairs to adopt statutory provisions on immigration and asylum applications so that women who were threatened or persecuted were admitted to the EU and that those who were separated from a violent husband were not deported from the Community. It called for the incorporation of provisions on women's rights in agreements between the EU and third countries. Finally, it called for 1999 to be designated as European Year Against Violence Against Women and called on the Commission to propose a dedicated budget line for a Europe-wide campaign. This should be based on the most successful elements of national campaigns already implemented and should be based on the defence of survivors of abuse. Its main objective would be to alter attitudes in society so that zero tolerance of violence against women was achieved at individual, collective and institutional level. ?