

Procedure file

Basic information	
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	1999/2109(COS)
Equal opportunities for women and men in the Union. 2nd, 3rd and 4th annual reports 1997-1999	Procedure completed
Subject 4.10.04 Gender equality	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities	ELDR DYBKJÆR Lone	09/11/1999
Council of the European Union	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Key events			
05/03/1999	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1999)0106	Summary
13/09/1999	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
10/07/2000	Vote in committee		Summary
10/07/2000	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0198/2000	
05/10/2000	Debate in Parliament		
05/10/2000	Decision by Parliament	T5-0441/2000	Summary
05/10/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
22/06/2001	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1999/2109(COS)
Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 142
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway

Document attached to the procedure	COM(1998)0302	13/05/1998	EC	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1999)0106	05/03/1999	EC	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	COM(2000)0123	08/03/2000	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	A5-0198/2000 OJ C 135 07.05.2001, p. 0011	10/07/2000	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	T5-0441/2000 OJ C 178 22.06.2001, p. 0186-0281	05/10/2000	EP	Summary

Equal opportunities for women and men in the Union. 2nd, 3rd and 4th annual reports 1997-1999

PURPOSE : to present the 1997 Annual Report on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men in the European Union. **CONTENT** : this Annual Report on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men in the European Union presents and overview of the main developments which have had an impact on equal opportunities at Community level during 1997. While important issues arose across a range of areas, three developments deserve to be particularly highlighted: - the Amsterdam Treaty was agreed with new powers relating to equal opportunities; - the Member States jointly decided to put in place a new employment strategy, for immediate implementation, in which equal opportunities is an explicit and important component; - progress was made in integrating equal opportunities for women and men into other policy areas, building on the commitments as regards mainstreaming. These are the principle strands in the development of equal opportunities in the European Union during 1997. The importance in each case lies less in the concrete achievements or benefits delivered during 1997 and more in their potential for future developemnts. The real significance of 1997 will become clearer as the Union comes to implement the Amsterdam Treaty after ratification; as the year-on-year employment process takes root; and as the logic of mainstreaming is brought to bear in ever widening field of policy areas.?

Equal opportunities for women and men in the Union. 2nd, 3rd and 4th annual reports 1997-1999

PURPOSE : to present an Annual Report on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men in the European Union (1998). **CONTENT** : this third Annual Report on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men in the European Union presents the developments and achievements in 1998 and flags up the issues which will be important in 1999 and as the new century approaches. Concerning mainstreaming in the Treaty, the Treaty of Amsterdam specifically identifies the elimination of inequality between women and men and the promotion of equality in all the EU's activities as among its fundamental aims. The Treaty thus formalises the concept of mainstreaming equal opportunities in all other policy areas. This report tracks the growing importance of mainstreaming as a political instrument. Likewise, employment is the top priority of the European Union and particularly affects women. The Luxembourg Jobs Summit committed the 15 Member States to a co-ordinated policy for employment and identified a gender gap of 25 million jobs - 25 million fewer women than men employed - in the Member States as one of the main problems. This report examines in detail the implications of two of the main conclusions of the Vienna Summit in 1998 that "employment is the top priority of the European Union" and that equal opportunities for women and men are a vital component of the whole employment strategy. The conclusion of this chapter is that equal opportunities and employment are now inextricably linked; equal opportunities is now both a matter of social justice and of good economics. In the next ten years, Europe's working age population will begin to shrink in terms of numbers. Employment growth, so vital to our long term economic success, will depend, even more than in the past, on the increased participation of women in the labour market. The Member States must create the conditions that will enable the European economy and the European workplace to benefit fully from the creativity, talents and skills of women and to enable both men and women to have greater balance in their working and family lives. As for mainstreaming in other policy fields, the report examines the significant progress made in 1998 on equality in a number of different and varied policy areas, such as, development co-operation, youth education and training, the 5th framework programme on research and development. Special mention in this regard is made to the proposed reform of the Structural Funds, with its emphasis on the dual strategy: specific action and mainstreaming. Concerning the balanced participation in decision making, the report observes that under-representation of women in decision making can be seen as undermining the practical impact of mainstreaming in that it militates against the integration of women's needs and interests across the full spectrum of political, social, cultural and economic life. The Member States must deepen this strategy on the national level. It should be emphasised that, at the European institutional level, efforts have been made to increase the women's representation in the Commission in particular. Lastly, the process towards enlargement of the Union is one of the its greatest challenges in the near future. In the light of this, the 1998 report devotes, for the first time, a fullsection to the issue of equal opportunities between women and men in the candidate countries. As for equal opportunities policies in 1999, it can be said that 1998 can be seen as a year of consolidation, of reflection and of forward planning. The report concludes that the dual strategy for equality - combining mainstreaming in all policy areas with the activity that focuses specifically on women - produced tangible results over the course of the year. 1999 promises results which are even more telling. We can expect the ratification of the Treaty of Amsterdam, the adoption of new regulations for the Structural Funds, the deepening of the Luxembourg process and the European Council's plans for a European Employment Pact, the preparations for the review of Beijing Platform of Action in the year 2000. Events in 1999 should bring yet more change to the architecture of the Union's equality policies.?

Equal opportunities for women and men in the Union. 2nd, 3rd and 4th annual reports 1997-1999

PURPOSE : to present a report from the Commission relating to equal opportunities for women and men in the European union. CONTENT : commitment to equality between women and men was enhanced in 1999 with the entry into force of the Treaty of Amsterdam on 1 May. The principle of equality is now enshrined in Article 2, which sets out the aims of the Union. The European Community has been given new tasks, legislative powers, responsibilities and potential in the field of equal opportunities. This fourth Annual Report on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men in the European Community presents an overview of the main developments and achievements in gender equality at European and national levels in 1999 and outlines the perspectives for the year 2000. The Community strategy of combining the integration of a gender perspective into all of the European Union's policies and programmes with specific actions in favour of women was sustained during 1999. This report identifies the core policy areas where progress has been made in 1999, such as structural policies, research, education, development co-operation, the struggle against violence, and employment policy. Furthermore, the European Community has been one of the prime promoters of changing the status of women in society, not only through law but also through measures promoting de facto equality. However, inequalities continue to exist, in particular with regard to the participation of women at the level of decision making. Unless the participation of women from all walks of life increases in this field, as this report shows, they will not be able to exercise influence properly so that policy making and decisions will reflect the social, economic and cultural values of society as a whole. The agreement reached by the Council to develop a common measurement system of gender progress in political decision-making is a step towards redressing this imbalance. In conclusion, the year 2000 will be a year of reinforcing Community policy on gender equality. The Commission will propose an "Equality Package" before the summer 2000, consisting of several initiatives: a new Framework Programme on Gender Equality (2001-2005), a proposal for a new Directive which will amend Directive 76/207/EEC on the implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women as regards access to employment, vocational training and promotion, and working conditions by including new provisions on important issues, such as sexual harassment in the workplace, and by specifying better some of the existing provisions. It will also consist of a Commission decision on a more gendered balanced composition of its committees and expert groups.?

Equal opportunities for women and men in the Union. 2nd, 3rd and 4th annual reports 1997-1999

The committee adopted the report by Lone DYBKJAER (ELDR, DK) on the Commission's 1997, 1998 and 1999 annual reports on equal opportunities for women and men in the European Union. In its overall assessment the committee highlighted the the new situation thrust upon women by changes in the labour market and the arrival of the information society. It called on the Commission and Member States to see how new sectors such as information and communications technology could create new job opportunities for women. To integrate women into society better, it proposed improving childcare facilities and demanded measures to reduce the earnings gap between women and men. MEPs called on the Commission to continue drawing up its annual reports and in particular to monitor implementation of the Fifth Framework Programme on Equal Opportunities for Men and Women for 2001-2005. They also asked it to devise indicators for assessing the labour market, education and the implementation of directives on equal opportunities. The Commission, the Member States and the applicant countries were requested to comply with international declarations and agreements, especially the Beijing Platform for Action and the declaration of the Beijing + 5 conference in New York. The report also called on the Commission to undertake a study to determine what bearing part-time work and atypical employment had on women's pay, social security contributions and pensions, and to promote public awareness raising campaigns to focus attention on the importance of balanced participation of women and men in decision-making. ?

Equal opportunities for women and men in the Union. 2nd, 3rd and 4th annual reports 1997-1999

The European Parliament adopted a resolution equal opportunities for men and women drafted by Lone DYBKJAER (ELDR, Denmark). Parliament requested the Commission to undertake a major study into the position of women in the EU, including the applicant countries, and into the results of 25 years of European policy and assess the actual status of women in the Union. The educational level of women should be investigated, with particular reference to their chances to participate with men on an equal level in working life and in the political decision-making process. Any type of aid, funding, or benefit granted by the Union must be subject to the requirement to observe the principle of equal pay.?