


Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2000/2021(INI)	Procedure completed
Regulating domestic help in the informal sector		
Subject 4.10.09 Women condition and rights		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible		Rapporteur
	FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities		Appointed 26/01/2000
			PPE-DE SMET Miet
	Committee for opinion		Rapporteur for opinion
	EMPL Employment and Social Affairs		Appointed The committee decided not to give an opinion.

Key events			
02/02/2000	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
10/10/2000	Vote in committee		Summary
10/10/2000	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0301/2000	
15/11/2000	Debate in Parliament		
30/11/2000	Decision by Parliament	T5-0540/2000	Summary
30/11/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
13/08/2001	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2000/2021(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	FEMM/5/12425

Documentation gateway					
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0301/2000 OJ C 223 08.08.2001, p. 0004	10/10/2000	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0540/2000 OJ C 228 13.08.2001, p. 0023-0193	30/11/2000	EP	Summary

Regulating domestic help in the informal sector

The committee adopted the report by Miet SMET (EPP-ED, B) which looked at the legislation governing this sector in a number of Member States (France, Belgium, Germany, the United Kingdom, Italy and Portugal) and called for a European definition of domestic work to be drawn up. It called for work of this kind to be recognised as an occupation in its own right and to be included in the guidelines on employment. It also wanted Member States to draw up and regularly update statistics on undeclared domestic work with a view to obtaining a more accurate picture of the scale of the problem. The Member States should take account of the principle of declaring all employment relationships, and it was important that both employees and employers were made aware of their rights and obligations under their employment relationship. The committee proposed various measures for combating the increasing amount of undeclared work in this sector, such as simplifying administrative formalities in connection with the requirement for private employers to declare their employees and making domestic services tax-deductible to reduce the difference in cost between employing undeclared and declared workers. To improve the image and the status of the occupation of domestic work, it also recommended specific and comprehensive social security cover for persons pursuing this occupation, which would entitle the worker to social insurance cover and a decent pension on retirement. Given that many migrant women were employed as domestic workers, the committee advocated setting up specialised reception centres to provide female migrant workers with assistance, for example, in drawing up applications to regularise their situation if they have temporary residence permits. In the context of recognising domestic work as an occupation, it felt that female migrant workers should be eligible for regular work permits. Lastly, it called on the Member States to link the issue of visas for domestic employees working for diplomats to a guaranteed minimum level of working conditions.?

Regulating domestic help in the informal sector

The European Parliament has adopted the resolution by Mr Miet SMET (EPP/ED, B) that deals with domestic workers and the black economy. Firstly, the Parliament calls for a European definition of domestic work to be drawn up and for Member States to draw up and regularly update statistics on undeclared work. It states that this type of work should be recognised as an occupation in its own right, and there is a call for European rules to be established on the rights of these workers - at present the situation varies from country to country. The needs of the domestic worker should be considered when employment legislation is being drafted. The importance of all Member States introducing the principle of declaring all employment relationships is stressed and both employers and employees should be made aware of their rights under their employment relationship. Finally, Member States should link the issuing of visas for domestic employees working for diplomats to guarantee minimum level of working conditions.?