


Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2000/2174(INI)	Procedure completed
Women and fundamentalism		
Subject 4.10.09 Women condition and rights		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities		19/06/2000
		PSE IZQUIERDO ROJO María	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	LIBE Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs		10/10/2000
		PSE KARAMANOU Anna	

Key events			
08/09/2000	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
16/10/2001	Vote in committee		Summary
16/10/2001	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0365/2001	
12/03/2002	Debate in Parliament		
13/03/2002	Decision by Parliament	T5-0110/2002	Summary
13/03/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
27/02/2003	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2000/2174(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/5/13599

Documentation gateway					
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0365/2001	16/10/2001	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0110/2002 OJ C 047 27.02.2003, p. 0089-0406 E	13/03/2002	EP	Summary

Women and fundamentalism

The committee adopted the own-initiative report by Maria IZQUIERDO ROJO (PES, E) on women and fundamentalism. It pointed out that women were the main victims of religious fundamentalism and that millions of women world-wide were deprived of basic human and civil rights (including proper schooling and the right to vote) under fundamentalist regimes. The report's main premise was that respect for human rights and equal rights for men and women formed part of the European Union's established body of law (the "acquis") and that the rights of women should not therefore be restricted or violated on the pretext of religion, religious interpretations, cultural traditions, customs or law. It highlighted the problems of women belonging to migrant communities in the EU where the countries of origin had fundamentalist leanings, and warned that the defence of women's rights meant that opposing or incompatible rules or traditions should not be permitted to apply in the EU. The rights derived from the family law of the EU Member States should therefore prevail over those of the countries of origin, and Member States should adopt legislation to outlaw any practice which endangered the physical or mental integrity and health of women, such as clitoridectomy. Immigrant women should be informed of the laws against discrimination and should benefit from services to uphold their rights. The committee's other key recommendations included: setting up a Community exchange and mobility programme for students and professionals undergoing training, intended specifically for women; drawing up an information and training programme for women focusing on the influence of fundamentalisms; support for initiatives to promote intercultural dialogue in the context of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation; the pursuit of policies to curb fundamentalist influences, eliminate "ghettos" and offer women facilities as regards training, information and access to the new technologies; and support for NGOs working with women victims of fundamentalism. The Commission and Council were also urged, when applying penalties based on the human rights clause in association and other agreements, to take account of violations of women's rights inspired by fundamentalism. Lastly, the committee wanted the forthcoming directives on asylum procedures in EU countries to recognise fundamentalist persecution suffered by women as a reason for granting asylum and formal refugee status.?

Women and fundamentalism

The European Parliament adopted its own-initiative resolution, drafted by Maria IZQUIERDO ROJO (PES, Spain) on women and fundamentalism. (Please refer to the document dated 16/10/01). Member States and the Commission are urged to provide the necessary means to ensure the implementation of Community legislation on the equal rights of men and women and the provisions on fundamental rights. Parliament recommends the pursuit of policies which curb fundamentalist influences, foster intercultural openness and exchanges in order to eliminate ghettos, and offer women facilities as regards training, information and access to new technologies, and the creation and dissemination of publications, and the media. The Commission must ensure that in negotiations for accession, cooperation or association agreements, the Community acquis in the field of women's rights is upheld.?