

Procedure file

Basic information		
CNS - Consultation procedure Decision	2000/0143(CNS)	Procedure completed
Gender equality: Community framework strategy, programme 2001-2005		
Amended by 2004/0194(COD)		
Subject 4.10.04.01 Programmes and actions for gender equality		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities		26/01/2000
		GUE/NGL ERIKSSON Marianne	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	BUDG Budgets		19/07/2000
		ELDR SBARBATI Luciana	
Council of the European Union	LIBE Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
European Commission	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs2323		20/12/2000
	Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs2313		27/11/2000
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion		

Key events			
07/06/2000	Legislative proposal published	COM(2000)0335	Summary
04/09/2000	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
10/10/2000	Vote in committee		Summary
10/10/2000	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A5-0294/2000	
23/10/2000	Debate in Parliament		
24/10/2000	Decision by Parliament	T5-0454/2000	Summary

13/11/2000	Vote in committee		
15/11/2000	Decision by Parliament	T5-0503/2000	Summary
24/11/2000	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(2000)0793	Summary
20/12/2000	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
20/12/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
19/01/2001	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2000/0143(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
	Amended by 2004/0194(COD)
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 013
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	FEMM/5/14103

Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal		COM(2000)0335 OJ C 337 28.11.2000, p. 0196 E	07/06/2000	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A5-0294/2000 OJ C 197 12.07.2001, p. 0008	10/10/2000	EP	
Document attached to the procedure		04667/2000	12/10/2000	CSL	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, partial vote at 1st reading/single reading		T5-0454/2000 OJ C 197 12.07.2001, p. 0023-0078	24/10/2000	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T5-0503/2000 OJ C 223 08.08.2001, p. 0102-0149	15/11/2000	EP	Summary
Modified legislative proposal		COM(2000)0793 OJ C 096 27.03.2001, p. 0216 E	24/11/2000	EC	Summary
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report		CES1442/2000 OJ C 116 20.04.2001, p. 0070	30/11/2000	ESC	
Committee of the Regions: opinion		CDR0233/2000 OJ C 144 16.05.2001, p. 0047	13/12/2000	CofR	
Non-legislative basic document		COM(2001)0119	02/03/2001	EC	Summary
Non-legislative basic document		COM(2001)0179	02/04/2001	EC	Summary
Non-legislative basic document		COM(2002)0258	28/05/2002	EC	Summary
Document attached to the procedure		COM(2003)0047	03/02/2003	EC	Summary
Follow-up document		SEC(2004)1047	11/08/2004	EC	
Follow-up document		SEC(2005)1044	29/07/2005	EC	

Follow-up document		COM(2008)0503	13/08/2008	EC	Summary
Follow-up document		SEC(2008)2365	13/08/2008	EC	Summary

Additional information

European Commission

[EUR-Lex](#)

Final act

[Decision 2001/51](#)

[OJ L 017 19.01.2001, p. 0022](#) Summary

Gender equality: Community framework strategy, programme 2001-2005

PURPOSE : Communication and Programme relating to the Community framework strategy on gender equality. **CONTENT** : this document contains two parts. The first part is a Communication which sets out the Commission's ideas on a strategy on gender equality over the next five years. The purpose is to establish a framework for action within which all Community activities can contribute to attain the goal of eliminating inequalities and promoting equality between women and men, as set out in Article 3(2) of the Treaty, either by adjusting policies and/or by implementing concrete actions. This integrated approach marks a change from the previous Community action on equal opportunities, mainly based on compartmental activities and programmes funded under different specific budget headings. The framework Strategy aims at coordinating all the different initiatives and programmes under a single umbrella built around clear assessment criteria, monitoring tools, the setting of benchmarks, gender proofing and evaluation. There are five inter-related fields of intervention: economic life, equal participation and representation, social rights, civil life and gender roles and stereotypes. Within each field, the Communication sets out operational objectives, such as strengthening the gender dimension in the European Employment Strategy, and improving the use of the use of the Structural Funds for the promotion of gender equality. The second part of the document sets out a supporting programme which will develop the horizontal and coordinating actions (such as networking, awareness-raising) required successfully to implement the framework strategy. The programme will have the following objectives: - to promote and disseminate the values and practices underlying gender equality; - to improve the understanding of issues related to direct and indirect gender discrimination by determining where it exists and to what extent and by evaluating the effectiveness of policies and practices. - to develop the capacities of key players (independent bodies responsible for the promotion of gender equality, social partners and non-governmental organisations) to promote gender equality effectively, in particular through supporting the exchange of information and good practice and networking at Community level. In order to achieve these objectives, actions will be undertaken - awareness raising, primarily by emphasising the Community dimension of the promotion of gender equality and publicising the results of the Programme, through publications and campaigns. - analysis and evaluation of factors and policies, including the collection of statistics, studies, gender impact assessment etc. -capacity building, through the promotion of networking and exchange of experiences at Community level. EFTA/EEA and candidate countries may participate in the Programme, which will run from 1 January 2001 to 31 December 2005. The total budget is EUR 10.65 million.?

Gender equality: Community framework strategy, programme 2001-2005

The committee unanimously adopted the report by Marianne ERIKSSON (EUL/NGL, S) amending (under the consultation procedure) the proposal for a Council decision on the programme relating to the Community framework strategy on gender equality for the period 2001-2005. The committee believed that the proposal should include an article on the funding of the programme and proposed a figure of at least EUR 50m. The report insisted that the Commission should report annually to Parliament's Women's Rights Committee on the progress and results of the programme. Among the measures it proposed was that the EU should organise joint campaigns in the Member States against violence against women and children on 25 November every year, in line with the UN proclamation on this subject. It also called for statistics to be compiled on the pay received by men and women for equivalent work. Lastly, it urged that support be given to equal opportunities measures in the applicant countries and that the human rights of women be guaranteed everywhere, including in the developing countries.?

Gender equality: Community framework strategy, programme 2001-2005

On 7 July 2000, the Commission transmitted to the Council a proposal for a decision relating to the programme concerning the Community framework strategy on gender equality (2001-2005). In a letter dated 25 July 2000, the Council consulted the Parliament on this proposal. In its proposal, the Commission foresees a Consultative Committee. However, throughout the discussions the delegations decided unanimously that this Consultative Committee should in fact be a Joint Committee. Therefore, the Council is informing the European Parliament of this substantial amendment to comitology. A new Article (6a) has been put in place to clarify the aims of this Joint Committee This Commission shall keep this Committee regularly informed about other Community action contributing to the promotion of gender equality. Where appropriate, the Commission shall establish regular and structured cooperation between this Committee and the monitoring committees established for other relevant policies, instruments and actions.?

Gender equality: Community framework strategy, programme 2001-2005

The resolution drafted by Mrs Marianne ERIKSSON (EUL/NGL, S) on the Commission paper proposing a Community framework strategy on gender equality of the period 2001-2005 was referred back to the committee. This was due to significant differences on the proposal expressed by the Parliament and the other institutions. It is anticipated that the vote will be postponed until the November plenary session so that the draft resolution can still be adopted under the French Presidency. This approach was approved by 290 votes to 246 with 8 abstentions. ?

Gender equality: Community framework strategy, programme 2001-2005

After having been sent back to the committee at the last plenary session, the resolution drafted by Mrs Marianne ERIKSSON (EUL/NGL, S) was adopted by a large majority with 14 compromise amendments which overcome the problems with the Commission. Parliament is proposing a financial reference of at least EUR 50 million for the period from 1 January 2001 to 31 December 2005. (Refer to previous stage in the legislative process, decision of committee responsible, for further details). In addition, the EU is invited to organise a European Equality week that will take place at Community level and in each Member State and applicant country. One such topic could be combating violence against women and children. The Commission should monitor and evaluate the programme and inform the Parliament on progress. The resolution also takes the view that women are poorly represented at all levels (Community, regional, national and local). It wishes to strengthen the participation of women in the decision-making bodies, including their role in the international missions. It should also be added that the Commission has noted that the external dimension of the programme cannot go beyond the EU's area of competence and that the programme cannot therefore apply to candidate countries.?

Gender equality: Community framework strategy, programme 2001-2005

This amended proposal for a Council decision presented by the Commission concerns the Programme relating to the Community framework strategy on gender equality (2001-2005). The main amendments incorporated into the Commission's initial proposal include the following: - reinforced links between the framework strategy and the Community programme relating to it, inter alia, by stating that the first objective of the programme is to assist in the implementation of the framework strategy; - the spelling out of the role of the programme in supporting gender equality in the applicant countries; - further clarification has been included of the need for consistency and complementarity with activities under other Community programmes and initiatives, including the programmes DAPHNE, STOP, the fight against poverty and social exclusion and the research programme and the social agenda; - the role of non-governmental organisations and the social partners in the programme has been highlighted and the Commission will make the relevant information available to them; - recognition of the importance of strengthening the capacity of key players involved in promoting gender equality, facilitating networking and promoting the synergy among the different networks; - in the annexes, further clarification has been added regarding the examples of actions to be implemented by the programme under the different strands; - finally, recognition of the significance of gender equality of recent Council texts in the area of employment and reference to the declaration and platform for action adopted at the UN Fourth Conference on Women.?

Gender equality: Community framework strategy, programme 2001-2005

PURPOSE : to establish a Programme relating to the Community Framework Strategy on gender equality. COMMUNITY MEASURE : Council Decision 2001/51/EC establishing a Programme relating to the Community framework strategy on gender equality 2001-2005. CONTENT : this Decision establishes, for the period from 01.01.2001 to 31.05.2005, a Community Action Programme, with a financial framework of EUR 50 million for the foreseen period. The Programme is one of the instruments necessary for the implementation of the overall Community strategy on gender equality, which embraces all Community policies and action aimed at achieving gender equality, including gender mainstreaming policies and specific actions targeted at women. It shall coordinate, support and finance the implementation of horizontal activities under the fields of intervention of the Community framework strategy on gender equality. These fields of intervention are: economic life, equal participation and representation, social rights, civil life, gender roles and stereotypes. The main objectives of the programme are the following: 1) to promote and disseminate the values and practices underlying gender equality; 2) to improve the understanding of issues related to gender discrimination and multiple discrimination against women, by evaluating the effectiveness of policies and practice through prior analysis, monitoring their implementation and assessing their effects; 3) to develop the capacity of players to promote gender equality effectively, in particular through support for the exchange of information and good practice and networking at Community level. With a view to achieving these objectives, the following Community actions will be implemented within a transnational framework: a) raising awareness, primarily by emphasising the Community dimension of the promotion of gender equality and by publicising the results of the programme, in particular through publications, campaigns and events; b) analysis of factors and policies relating to gender equality, including the collection of statistics, studies, gender impact assessment tools and mechanisms, development of indicators and benchmarks and effective dissemination of results. This will also include monitoring of the implementation and application of Community equality law by evaluating legislation and practice in order to assess their impact and effectiveness; c) transnational cooperation between parties through the promotion of networking of experiences at Community level. The Commission shall be responsible for the implementation of the Programme. The Commission and the Member States shall ensure consistency and complementarity between action undertaken under this Programme and other relevant Union and Community actions, such as those supported by the DAPHNE, STOP, PHARE and MEDA Programmes, the research framework programmes to combat social exclusion, the social agenda and the Community action programme to combat discrimination 2001-2006. Furthermore, the participation of this programme shall be open to EFTA/EEA countries, the associated countries of Central and Eastern Europe, Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, funded by additional appropriations in accordance with procedures to be agreed with those countries. The Commission shall submit an interim report by 31.12.2003 at the latest to the European Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of Regions. It shall submit a final evaluation report on the Framework Strategy by 31.12.2006 at the latest. All evaluation reports shall indicate the extent to which funds have been made available to the Commission, the Member States and public bodies and to NGOs. ENTRY INTO FORCE : 20.12.2000.?

Gender equality: Community framework strategy, programme 2001-2005

The purpose of this Commission Staff Working Paper is to accompany the final evaluation report on the Community's framework strategy and action programme relating to gender equality, 2001 -2006.

This document presents the final findings of the framework strategy. The Decision establishing the Community action programme requires the Commission to present an intermediary report as well as a final, independent report prepared with the help of external assistance. Following a call for proposal, the Commission, requested Deloitte to prepare the final, external evaluation report, which it received in December 2007. The Commission presented its intermediary evaluation report on the action programme in 2004.

Having set out the main aims and objectives of the framework programme and after having analysed the effectiveness of the programme, the document details how the framework strategy programme helped meet the objective of promoting gender equality.

Gender equality: Community framework strategy, programme 2001-2005

The purpose of this Communication is to present the final evaluation report on the framework strategy and Community action programme on gender equality 2001 -2006.

The aim of the Community framework strategy on gender equality was to establish a single coordinated framework for all the Commission's activities in this field. The strategy sets out five priority objectives: gender equality in economic life; equal participation and representation in decision-making; equal participation and representation in decision-making; equal access to social rights; gender equality in civil life; and the overcoming of gender stereotypes.

The Community action programme, established in 2001, was drawn up to support the implementation of the framework strategy through across-the-board and coordination activities for a total budget of ? 61 742 241 spread over the three strands of activity. Strand 3 ? cooperation between the parties concerned ? absorbed the largest share of the budget (45%), followed by Strand 1 ? raising awareness of the Community dimension of equality (38%) ? and Strand 2 ? Analysis and evaluation (16%).

The main findings of the report are as follows:

- In the field of employment, the work of the experts helped strengthen the Community dimension of policy on gender equality among national policies through the analysis of national employment plans and the availability of statistics.
- The framework strategy has also clearly resulted in progress on promoting equality in participation and representation at Community level.
- Activities to promote equal access to social rights made it possible to accompany the implementation of equality objectives in the open method of coordination in the field of social protection and inclusion, particularly through the work of experts.
- Various initiatives have been taken in the field of equality in civil life.
- Efforts to overcome gender stereotypes were also backed up by activities geared to the respective roles of women and men in society.
- The framework strategy and the programme have made a considerable contribution to improving governance at European level.

To conclude, the aims of the framework strategy were ambitious as they required account to be taken of the principles of equality in all the Union's policies. The five policy areas identified for structuring the framework for Community action corresponded with the main challenges to be taken up in order to support the equality objectives. By presenting this overall framework, the Commission has created the requisite conditions for coordinated implementation of the various instruments. The structural funds have been a crucial financial tool for ensuring that equality is taken into account in the policies of the Member States. Targeted Community activities have increased the effectiveness of legislation on equality and supported the various institutions and civil society in effectively promoting equality in all the areas in question.

The programme has demonstrated its value through its ability to support the implementation of the equality objectives and to strengthen the coordination mechanisms and governance at European level. The measures that have supported the promotion of values and improved understanding of equality questions are very useful for Community action.

Despite this positive assessment, there are still major gender inequalities. In March 2006, the Commission adopted an equality roadmap in order to take up these challenges. This is aimed at combating gender inequality in six priority areas. In order to flesh out its commitments, the Commission is identifying the activities for which it is competent in the various fields and the corresponding deadlines, and strengthening the governance and monitoring mechanisms. The funding for work on equality under the new programme ? 'PROGRESS (2007-2013)' ? will make it possible to support the Commission in the implementation of the roadmap activities. By merging the previous programmes into a single programme, PROGRESS also makes it possible to take better account of gender equality in all its activities.

There are still many challenges to be taken up in the field of gender equality that will require the commitment of all the parties concerned. The Commission has undertaken to strengthen its framework for action while calling on the others to play their part. Employers and employees at European level have undertaken to implement their framework for action on equality. Civil society and the NGOs are also determined to strive to eliminate gender inequality. Making progress on gender equality is also a task for the Member States. In March 2006, the European Council gave a clear political signal to the Heads of State and Government by laying down the priorities of equality policy in the European Pact for Gender Equality.