


Procedure file

Basic information	
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic) 2001/2193(COS)	Procedure completed
Development policy: mainstreaming of gender equality in development cooperation, action programme 2001-2006	
Subject 4.10.04 Gender equality 6.30 Development cooperation	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities		11/09/2001
		PPE-DE MARTENS Maria	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	DEVE Development and Cooperation		11/10/2001
		GUE/NGL MORGANTINI Luisa	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Development	2383	08/11/2001
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Development		

Key events			
21/06/2001	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2001)0295	Summary
22/10/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
08/11/2001	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		Summary
26/02/2002	Vote in committee		Summary
26/02/2002	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0066/2002	
24/04/2002	Debate in Parliament		
25/04/2002	Decision by Parliament	T5-0205/2002	Summary
25/04/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
05/06/2003	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2001/2193(COS)
Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 050; Rules of Procedure EP 142
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	FEMM/5/15253

Documentation gateway					
Non-legislative basic document		COM(2001)0295	21/06/2001	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0066/2002	26/02/2002	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0205/2002 OJ C 131 05.06.2003, p. 0018-0153 E	25/04/2002	EP	Summary

Development policy: mainstreaming of gender equality in development cooperation, action programme 2001-2006

PURPOSE : to present a Programme of Action for the mainstreaming of gender equality in Community Development Co-operation. **CONTENT :** Gender equality is crucial for development in general and the link between gender and poverty has made the relevance of gender mainstreaming in development co-operation more critical than ever before. Gender mainstreaming is a long-term incremental approach of integration of gender issues in policy and planning. There are three main reasons for mainstreaming gender issues in Community development co-operation: - a disproportionate majority of the world's poor are women who, in some instances, lack not only access to important economic and social resources, but also have their human rights as individuals denied to them; - investments in improving the situation of women (providing education, improving health and securing their land and labour rights) translate into higher levels of productivity, and lower levels of infant and female mortality, food insecurity and poverty; - the European Union has a long-standing engagement to promoting gender equality and has played an active role in international conferences advocating womens' rights, notably at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, 1995. It is now time to prioritise positive actions and mainstream gender concerns into every level of development co-operation. This Programme of Action capitalises on these achievements and proposes concrete actions for the future. It proposes to mainstream gender around three major axes: 1) the analysis and integration of gender within the priority areas identified by the Community Development Policy: a) support for macro-economic policies and poverty reduction strategies and social development programmes in health and education; b) food security and sustainable rural development; c) transport; d) institutional capacity building, good governance and the rule of law; e) trade and development and f) regional integration and co-operation. Gender is a crosscutting theme in all these six areas. 2) Strengthening gender mainstreaming within projects and programmes at regional and country levels. 3) Gender capacity building which as an incremental process will underpin the Commission's capacity to effectively mainstream gender issues across board. The Programme of Action is to be implemented during a five-year period (2001-2006). A strong commitment from the EC, developing countries, Member States and other donors will demonstrate that greater gender equality is achievable through a systematic and coherent mainstreaming approach.?

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In adopting its conclusions on the Action Programme, the Council agrees that a three-part strategy to mainstream gender equality in EC Development cooperation needs to be forcefully put in place and monitored at all levels. The Council: - underlines the need to strengthen gender mainstreaming within projects and programmes at regional and country and emphasises the importance of taking into account gender mainstreaming and equality in national poverty reduction policies and the Country Strategy Papers; - asks the Commission and the Member States and the other major donors to strengthen coherence, coordination and complementarity in order to achieve sustainable results, through information sharing and join actions in the framework of country programmes. ?

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The committee adopted the report by Maria MARTENS (EPP-ED, NL) welcoming the Commission's action programme. It regretted, however, that the programme had only finally been published 6 years after the Council first designated gender mainstreaming as a principle of EU development policy. It also felt that the programme needed to be fleshed out, by the presentation of a formal proposal and a detailed work programme setting out operational arrangements, deadlines and financial requirements. The committee questioned the rankings given to the six priority areas of Community development policy to which the programme will apply. While it agreed that first priority should be given to

supporting macro-economic policies, poverty-reduction strategies and health and development programmes, it felt that transport should not be ranked in such a high position (third) and that it was unacceptable that key areas such as good governance and trade should be ranked so low (fourth and fifth positions respectively). The report stressed the importance of improved access to quality reproductive health services and said that gender mainstreaming in health should target men as well as women, in order to foster greater responsibility for family planning, safer sex and parenthood. It also pointed out that cultural, religious and socio-economic practices resulting in gender disparity should never be considered an acceptable excuse for obstructing progress in the area of gender rights. Another key concern expressed by the committee was the need to involve women and women's organisations and NGOs in all stages of the project cycle (planning, drafting and follow-up) and to ensure balanced representation of women and men in project management. MEPs also emphasised the need for gender training and awareness-raising among Commission staff in the various departments involved and suggested that each delegation and service should have a permanent official as a specialised 'gender desk' with clearly defined responsibilities. Still on the subject of methodology, the report said that gender auditing of public budgets was an essential means of establishing whether the principle of gender mainstreaming was being applied in public policy. Lastly, the committee called for sufficient resources to be made available to support the proposed actions. It criticised the reduction in the funding allocated in 2001 under the specific budget heading for integrating gender issues in development cooperation (EUR 2.02m compared with EUR 5m in 1998) and urged the Commission to draw up a new proposal to replace the current regulation governing that heading when it expired. ?

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The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Maria MARTENS (EPP-ED, Netherlands) on the Commission's action programme on gender equality. (Please refer to the document dated 26/02/02.) A large majority of poor people in the world are women and it is this link between gender and poverty which has made the gender factor in development policy more important than ever. There needs to be a balanced representation of men and women in project management and recruitment procedures which take due account of gender concerns. Operational instruments such as gender impact assessment (ex-ante and ex-post), checks on the integration of gender issues, follow-up indicators and gender-specifics statistics and data should be promoted and used at all levels. Gender impact assessments should be carried out for all different components of the development cooperation agreements, including provisions and policies related to trade.?