


Procedure file

Basic information		
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	2002/2180(COS)	Procedure completed
Equal opportunities for women and men in the European Union. 6th annual report 2001		
Subject 4.10.04 Gender equality		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities		18/06/2002
		PPE-DE KRATSA-TSAGAROPOULOU Rodi	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	AFET Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	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.	
Council of the European Union European Commission	Commission DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion	Commissioner	

Key events			
28/05/2002	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2002)0258	Summary
02/09/2002	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
26/11/2002	Vote in committee		Summary
26/11/2002	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0403/2002	
19/12/2002	Debate in Parliament		
19/12/2002	Decision by Parliament	T5-0633/2002	Summary
19/12/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
05/02/2004	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2002/2180(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
Committee dossier	FEMM/5/16499

Documentation gateway					
Non-legislative basic document		COM(2002)0258	28/05/2002	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0403/2002	26/11/2002	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0633/2002 OJ C 031 05.02.2004, p. 0192-0265 E	19/12/2002	EP	Summary

Equal opportunities for women and men in the European Union. 6th annual report 2001

PURPOSE : to present the sixth Annual Report on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men in the European Union. **CONTENT** : this Annual Report, the sixth on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men in the European Union, presents an overview of the main developments and achievements at European and national level in 2001 and outlines perspectives for the year 2002. As regards the the Community Framework Strategy to Gender equality (2001-2005), the report states that 2001 was the first year of the implementation of the Framework Strategy on Gender Equality. There was some noticeable progress in the year 2001 both with regard to substance and methodology for the integration of gender issues in policies and also with regard to the gender balance in the Commissions committees and expert groups. This progress confirms the efficiency of the structured approach chosen in the Framework Strategy which is based on forward planing, setting specific objectives and monitoring the activities and results at the end of each year. In 2001 interesting new activities were selected for an integration of a gender equality perspective, for instance: - World trade and globalisation (Directorate General for Trade), - The integrated product policy, in particular waste management (Directorate General Environment), - Asylum and refugee policy (Directorate General Justice and Home Affairs) and - An interpretative communication on the incorporation of social aspects in public procurement, including equality of treatment and opportunity between men and women, was adopted (DG Internal Market in co-operation with DG Employment). As regards the action plan, a new Action Programme for which a priority theme is selected each year accompanies the Framework Strategy. The priority theme in 2001 was the gender pay gap. Equal pay for women and men in the European Union is now part of the process launched at the Lisbon Summit in 2000 to make the European Union the most knowledge-based economy in the world by 2010 with more and better jobs and social cohesion. Each year, the Commission assesses progress towards the Lisbon objectives on the base of structural indicators, which now includes an indicator on gender pay differentials. In practice, the majority of the 27 projects selected in 2001 under the Action Programme, deal with equal pay issues. The total funding for them is approximately 8 million Euro. The results are expected for 2003. As far as equality in the enlargement process is concerned, the report highlights that a basic condition of membership of the European Union is acceptance and transposition of the "acquis communautaire". In the field of equal opportunities, candidate countries are required to have transposed the nine Directives at the time of entry. The work of transposition is on going with some of the candidate countries achieving good success in 2001. However, legislation of itself is not enough. Experience has shown that supporting mechanisms are essential for effective equality. In this context, structures such as equality bodies, ombudspersons for equality and independent advice are key. In 2002 the spotlight will be on reconciling work and family life. Several initiatives will be taken at European level, such as improving the visibility of the issue in the main political processes, funding of transnational projects, improving statistics and indicators and producing a report on the implementation of the Directive on parental leave. The year 2002 will be a year of reinforcing gender equality legislation as well. The Commission will bring forward a proposal for a Directive on sex discrimination. The new Directive will intervene in areas beyond employment and social security, which is the present extent of Community equality law. The issues of combating trafficking in women and violence as well as of improving the gender dimension in the external policies of the European Union and in the Structural Funds will continue to be high on the political agenda in 2002. Moreover, following the on going assessment of women's participation at the decision-making level, and in advance of the elections to the European Parliament in 2004, the Commission envisages concentrating its 2003 activities on the promotion of gender balance in decision making. It should also be noted that on 18 April 2002 the Council and the Parliament reached political agreement on the amendment to Directive 76/207/EC on equal treatment in employment.?

Equal opportunities for women and men in the European Union. 6th annual report 2001

The committee adopted the report by Rodi KRATSA (EPP-ED, GR) on the Commission's annual report for 2001. As regards the Community framework strategy (2001-2005), it welcomed the Commission's efforts to promote gender equality in the various areas of EU policy but regretted the lack of a body responsible for gender mainstreaming in the Council of Ministers and the fact that there had been little encouragement for women to participate in applications. As regards the 2001-2005 action programme on gender equality, the committee welcomed the choice of equal pay as the priority theme for 2001 but called on the Commission to present a new proposal to reinforce the employment guideline aimed at equal pay, including national targets for reducing wage differentials. It also wanted to see research carried out into the reasons for the pay disparity and urged the Commission to disseminate best practices as widely as possible. Welcoming the choice of

reconciliation of work and family life as a priority theme for 2002, the report stressed the importance of collecting statistics by gender and establishing common indicators for childcare facilities and pay differentials between men and women, by sector, and for atypical and part-time work. With regard to the participation of women in the decision-making process (the priority theme for 2003), the committee called on the EU Member States to develop new mechanisms and strategies, including the use of quotas, for achieving equal representation of women and men at all levels of the decision-making process. As far as gender equality legislation was concerned, the report urged the Commission to amend the existing directives as soon as possible and also made recommendations for the Commission's forthcoming proposal for a new directive based on Article 13 of the Treaty. In addition, the committee called for the European Ombudsman's responsibilities to be extended with particular reference to women's rights in cases of maladministration and for the appointment of a deputy ombudsman responsible for gender equality. On the question of enlargement, external relations and development cooperation, the committee welcomed the Commission's new initiative to integrate gender equality into the EU's external relations, but stressed the need to prevent and stamp out the trafficking of human beings, achieve a better integration of gender issues into development cooperation policy and promote cooperation between women in European countries and partner countries in the context of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation. ?

Equal opportunities for women and men in the European Union. 6th annual report 2001

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Rodi KRATSA-TSAGAROPOULOU on the Commission's report. (Please refer to the document dated 26/11/02.) Parliament also pointed out that women's NGOs with significant experience at national and regional level are encountering difficulties in taking part in European programmes (specifications, joint funding, etc). The Commission needed to revise its policy in this regard. Parliament went on to state that the Commission's new directive based on Article 13 should: - commit Member States to taking measures to ensure follow-up to the Beijing Action Platform; - provide for the adaptation of existing provisions to meet current needs, particularly in regard to balanced participation in decision-making, equality in the education systems, reconciliation of work and family life, combating violence, trafficking in human beings and the sexual exploitation of women; - enable positive action to be taken.?