


# Procedure file

| Basic information   |                                |                     |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| INI - Own-initiative procedure  | <a href="#">2002/2210(INI)</a> | Procedure completed |
| The objectives of gender equality using the structural Funds  |                                |                     |
| Subject<br>4.10.04 Gender equality<br>4.70.01 Structural funds, investment funds in general, programmes |                                |                     |

| Key players                   |  |  |            |
|-------------------------------|--|--|------------|
| European Parliament           | Committee responsible  | Rapporteur   | Appointed  |
|                               | <b>FEMM</b> Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities                         | <br><br>PPE-DE <a href="#">AVILÉS PEREA</a><br><a href="#">María Antonia</a> | 18/06/2002 |
| Council of the European Union | Council configuration  | Meeting  | Date       |
|                               | <a href="#">Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs2492</a> |  | 06/03/2003 |

| Key events |  |   |         |
|------------|--|---|---------|
| 24/10/2002 | Committee referral announced in Parliament |   |         |
| 19/02/2003 | Vote in committee                          |   | Summary |
| 19/02/2003 | Committee report tabled for plenary        | <a href="#">A5-0059/2003</a>  |         |
| 06/03/2003 | Debate in Council                          | <a href="#">2492</a>  |         |
| 12/03/2003 | Debate in Parliament                       |  |         |
| 13/03/2003 | Decision by Parliament                     | <a href="#">T5-0093/2003</a>  | Summary |
| 13/03/2003 | End of procedure in Parliament             |   |         |
| 10/03/2004 | Final act published in Official Journal    |   |         |

| Technical information      |                                |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Procedure reference        | 2002/2210(INI)                 |
| Procedure type             | INI - Own-initiative procedure |
| Procedure subtype          | Initiative                     |
| Legal basis                | Rules of Procedure EP 54       |
| Stage reached in procedure | Procedure completed            |
|                            |                                |

## Documentation gateway

|   |  |            |    |         |
|---|--|------------|----|---------|
| Document attached to the procedure                  | <a href="#">COM(2002)0748</a>  | 20/12/2002 | EC | Summary |
| Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading | <a href="#">A5-0059/2003</a>   | 19/02/2003 | EP |         |
| Text adopted by Parliament, single reading          | <a href="#">T5-0093/2003</a><br>OJ C 061 10.03.2004, p.<br>0317-0370 E | 13/03/2003 | EP | Summary |

## The objectives of gender equality using the structural Funds

**PURPOSE :** to present a communication on the implementation of the gender mainstreaming in the Structural Funds programming documents 2000-2006. **CONTENT :** this Communication provides an overview of the extent to which the gender mainstreaming dimension has been taken into account in the Structural Funds programming 2000-2006. It gives an inventory of progress and includes examples of good practice, and also identifies areas where progress is slow. The purpose of this document is to give an input to the Structural Funds' mid-term review when the allocation of the performance reserve is determined, along with any revisions concerning financial allocations, targets, priorities and measures. The report states that gender mainstreaming in the Structural Funds involves ensuring that all general measures and interventions openly and actively take into account - during planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation - their effects on the respective situations of women and men. It also involves the complementary design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of specific measures and operations, to promote equality and to assist women to participate and benefit equally from the Structural Funds and, more generally, from economic and social cohesion. Experience shows that gender equality is a complex policy area, and that there are a number of obstacles to the successful implementation of a dual approach involving both specific measures and mainstreaming. The Commission makes the following recommendations which are designed to address the above obstacles immediately. It invites the Member States to : - encourage, through Managing Authorities, Monitoring Committees, local programme and project managers, especially in the short term, the use of gender equality expertise, and to ensure the presence of representatives of equality bodies and research institutions in Structural Funds Monitoring Committees ; - establish awareness-raising measures and training in gender mainstreaming for Managing Authorities, members of Monitoring Committees, programme and project managers and partners. All policies are improved with ex-ante evaluation and impact assessment. In the context of gender mainstreaming, ex-ante evaluation relies on the availability of analysis using sex-disaggregated statistics. Gender impact assessment needs clear qualitative and quantitative gender equality indicators for monitoring and evaluating output and results. Member States are urged to ensure, notably through their Managing Authorities, that sex-disaggregated statistics and gender impact assessment become an inherent component of Structural Funds interventions, including in "non-traditional" gender equality domains such as infrastructure, transport or environment. - appoint a high-level representative to coordinate the national strategy for gender equality, to contribute to the co-ordination of the EU strategy, and to participate in a high level group to support the implementation of gender mainstreaming in Structural Funds interventions. The findings and recommendations stemming from the current programming period of the Structural Funds address deep-rooted issues that can only be dealt with over the longer term; therefore, they will, in substance, also remain valid for future Structural Funds interventions. In particular the allocation of funding for gender equality activities must be retained and even increased in most programmes. A number of issues arise for further examination when looking at the future promotion of gender equality in the Union. The Commission considers the following as the most important ones: - equal opportunities between women and men must remain a priority with the dual approach - gender mainstreaming and specific actions - which has proved its effectiveness, being continued. - investment in human and social capital in the knowledge society will form the basis of long-term growth of Europe. Consequently, future interventions should focus on preventing the exclusion of women from these areas by giving particular attention to encouraging high quality training and employment in the ICT and R&D sector, in tandem with a wider commitment to promoting female entrepreneurship, life-long learning, training, skills and qualifications for women in non-traditional areas. - the Structural Funds should play an important role in the specific context of the forthcoming enlargement of the Union, especially in combating the potential risks faced by women in new Member States, particularly those who are exposed to the adverse effects of economic and social restructuring, such as the increase of unemployment and the decrease of childcare provision.?

## The objectives of gender equality using the structural Funds

The committee adopted the own-initiative report by María Antonia AVILES PEREA (EPP-ED, E) on gender equality objectives in the use of the Structural Funds. It began by pointing out that, although equal opportunities objectives had been incorporated by law into operations co-financed by the Funds since 1999, progress in this area was "far from satisfactory". As in the past, the European Social Fund (ESF) was continuing to play a more prominent role vis-à-vis the equal opportunities objective, but the committee regretted that in other important areas (e.g. infrastructure, transport, enterprise policy, the information society, R&D, etc.) the programmes only touched on the issue of equal opportunities. Moreover, measures under the EDF tended to pay little attention to reducing the horizontal and vertical segregation of the labour market or pay inequalities, or to promoting the role of women in such fields as ICT, entrepreneurship or the decision-making process. Member States were urged to ensure systematic mainstreaming of equal opportunities at every stage of the programming and implementation of measures as well as balanced participation by both women and men in decision-making, selection and monitoring bodies. The report also called for the Structural Funds to be used to a greater extent to make it easier to combine work and family life, for example by developing facilities for the care of children and for elderly, sick and disabled dependents, promoting the reorganisation of working time for men as well as women, etc. MEPs stressed that the managing authorities should establish relevant equal opportunities criteria for the selection of projects cofinanced by the Structural Funds and should penalise projects which failed to satisfy these requirements by, for example, rejecting project proposals or returning them to applicants for revision. They regretted that the majority of Structural Funds programmes did not include an analysis of economic and social inequalities between women and men or an estimation of the expected impact of the measures on both sexes. There was a need to develop statistics at national, regional and local level in order to give a true picture of the respective situation of women

and men, for the purposes of programming. It was also important to establish gender-specific indicators for monitoring and evaluation. The Commission and the Member States were urged to ensure that the 2003 mid-term review made a proper evaluation of the extent to which the objective of equal opportunities had actually been achieved in the Structural Funds measures and to make any necessary adjustments to the programming of projects for the remaining programming period. Lastly, the report highlighted the important role the Structural Funds could play in combating the adverse effects that economic and social restructuring was having on women in the candidate countries, and called for adequate financial support to be provided to the NGOs concerned with equal opportunities in those countries. ?

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The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on its own-initiative report drafted by Maria Antonia AVILES PEREA (EPP-ED, Spain) on equality of opportunity and the Structural Funds. (Please see the document dated 19/02/03.) The report was adopted by 381 votes for, 40 against and 18 abstentions. ?