

# Procedure file

Basic information	
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2003/2108(INI)
2004 elections: how to ensure balanced representation of women and men	
Subject 4.10.04 Gender equality 8.40.01.01 Elections, direct universal suffrage	
Procedure completed	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	<b>FEMM</b> Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities	ELDR <a href="#">DYBKJ/ER Lone</a>	11/06/2003

Key events			
03/07/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
02/10/2003	Vote in committee		Summary
02/10/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary	<a href="#">A5-0333/2003</a>	
06/11/2003	Debate in Parliament		
06/11/2003	Decision by Parliament	<a href="#">T5-0472/2003</a>	Summary
06/11/2003	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2003/2108(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/5/19732

Documentation gateway					
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		<a href="#">A5-0333/2003</a>	02/10/2003	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		<a href="#">T5-0472/2003</a>	06/11/2003	EP	Summary

## 2004 elections: how to ensure balanced representation of women and men

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The committee adopted the own-initiative report by Lone DYBKJAER (ELDR, DK) on how to ensure balanced representation of women and men in the 2004 elections. It pointed out that women continue to be seriously under-represented in political decision-making. In particular, the low representation of women amongst the accession country observers in Parliament (14%) would seem to indicate that women would be less well-represented in the EP in the new legislature (2004-2009). MEPs called on the governments of all the Member States and accession countries to review the impact of electoral systems on the political representation of women in elected bodies and to consider adjusting or reforming those systems. Political parties were urged to agree on common policies providing for women candidates to make up at least 30% of their party lists in the European elections and to ensure that their media strategies take gender balance into account. The Member States and accession countries were also asked to develop policies aimed at combining work with family life, by ensuring access to appropriate and high-quality childcare. Lastly, the report urged the Commission, national governments and parliaments and women's organisations to fund and organise awareness-raising campaigns targeted at promoting the participation of women in political life with a view to the 2004 European elections. It stressed the need to take account of different national settings and, particularly, the special situation in the accession countries.?

## 2004 elections: how to ensure balanced representation of women and men

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The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the own-initiative report by Lone DYBKAER (ELDR, DK) on the balanced representation of men and women in the 2004 elections. (Please see the summary of 02/10/03.) Parliament asked the Commission to initiate dissemination of information - before the European election 2004 - on the concept of parity democracy, including information on the lessons learned from those countries (e.g. France and Belgium) which have enshrined the principle of parity democracy in their constitutions, or introduced specific legislation on the subject.?