



Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2005/2149(INI)	Procedure completed
Equality women and men: integrated approach in the parliamentary committees' work		
Subject 4.10.04 Gender equality 8.40.01.06 Committees, interparliamentary delegations		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	FEMM Women's Rights and Gender Equality	PPE-DE ZÁBORSKÁ Anna	25/04/2006
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion	ŠPIDLA Vladimír	

Key events			
15/06/2006	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
20/12/2006	Vote in committee		Summary
22/12/2006	Committee report tabled for plenary	A6-0478/2006	
18/01/2007	Results of vote in Parliament		
18/01/2007	Debate in Parliament		
18/01/2007	Decision by Parliament	T6-0010/2007	Summary
18/01/2007	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2005/2149(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/6/29438

Documentation gateway					
Committee draft report		PE380.699	06/11/2006	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE382.315	28/11/2006	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A6-0478/2006	22/12/2006	EP	

Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	T6-0010/2007	18/01/2007	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2007)1016-2	27/02/2007	EC	

Equality women and men: integrated approach in the parliamentary committees' work

The committee adopted the own-initiative report by Anna ZÁBORSKÁ (EPP-ED, SK) on gender mainstreaming in the work of the EP's committees. The report pointed out that, although the number of female MEPs had steadily increased over the years (from 17.5% in 1979 to 30.33% in 2004), within Parliament's administration women were under-represented in positions of responsibility in bodies responsible for taking political decisions. Although most committees had expressed support for gender mainstreaming, few of them had included any mainstreaming strategy when establishing their future political priorities. However, half the committees were "greatly interested" in gender mainstreaming in their secretariats.

The committee stressed that calls for gender equality must be translated into a practical approach which does not set women against men, and said that gender mainstreaming would lead to "positive developments" for both sexes. It added that mainstreaming cannot replace specific policies which aim to redress situations resulting from gender inequality.

The report committed Parliament to adopting and applying within its administration a gender mainstreaming strategy with specific targets in Community policies, to be developed by the end of the current legislative term at the latest. It also stressed the important role which the political groups could play in making it possible for women to participate fully in public life by including gender mainstreaming in their programmes and activities. Political parties across Europe were urged to introduce a compulsory quota system on their lists for any collective body.

Parliament's Secretary-General was encouraged to continue the training of officials in gender mainstreaming, and the report also called for each committee secretariat in the DGs for internal and external policies to include a specially trained official and to encourage networking among those officials in order to conduct regular exchanges on best practices. The committees should be provided with "appropriate tools" to gain a sound understanding of gender mainstreaming, such as indicators, data and statistics broken down by gender and the allocation of budgetary resources from a gender equality viewpoint. The implementation of gender mainstreaming should take account of the specific features of each parliamentary committee, and assessments should be carried out every two years on the basis of questionnaires submitted to the committees, including any shortcomings in the work of the committees and delegations as well as the progress made in implementing gender mainstreaming in each committee. Lastly, the report called for equality training to be arranged for all MEPs before the next parliamentary term.

Equality women and men: integrated approach in the parliamentary committees' work

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the own-initiative report drafted by Anna ZÁBORSKÁ (EPP-ED, SK) on gender mainstreaming in the work of the EP's committees. (Please see the summary of 20/12/2006.)