



Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2006/2010(INI)	Procedure completed
Women's immigration: the role and place of immigrant women in the European Union		
Subject 4.10.09 Women condition and rights 7.10.08 Migration policy		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	FEMM Women's Rights and Gender Equality	PPE-DE KRATSA-TSAGAROPOULOU Rodi	24/01/2006
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Justice and Consumers	FRATTINI Franco	

Key events			
19/01/2006	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
13/09/2006	Vote in committee		Summary
28/09/2006	Committee report tabled for plenary	A6-0307/2006	
23/10/2006	Debate in Parliament		
24/10/2006	Results of vote in Parliament		
24/10/2006	Decision by Parliament	T6-0437/2006	Summary
24/10/2006	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2006/2010(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

Committee draft report		PE374.229	18/05/2006	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE376.371	30/06/2006	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A6-0307/2006	28/09/2006	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T6-0437/2006	24/10/2006	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2006)5316-2	23/11/2006	EC	

Women's immigration: the role and place of immigrant women in the European Union

The committee adopted the own-initiative report by Rodi KRATSA-TSAGAROPOULOU (EPP-ED, EL) on the role and place of immigrant women in the EU. The report highlighted the "twofold discrimination" suffered by such women, based on ethnic origin and sex, and looked at ways to promote their access to economic, political, social and cultural life in the host country as well as actions to combat human rights violations against immigrant women and girls.

The committee pointed out that the number of women immigrants was constantly increasing in the EU, accounting for approximately 54 % of the overall number of immigrants and covering an increasingly broader range of categories (economic migration, immigration because of disasters, political refugees, asylum, family reunification, etc.). Member States were urged to strengthen the structures and social services which enable immigrants to settle in smoothly and to provide them with information about their rights and obligations in accordance with the principles and legalisation of the Member States. MEPs stressed that integration is a two-way process which requires mutual commitment on the part of the host society and the immigrants.

The report called on the Member States to create favourable conditions enabling immigrant women to access the labour market and to balance their professional and private life. Measures were also needed to fight undeclared work, ensure respect for women's social rights, provide language education, and ensure that young women immigrants were given access to education and training systems in the host countries.

The committee urged those Member States which have not done so "to ensure that effective and deterrent penalties apply under their criminal codes to all forms of violence against women and children, particularly forced marriage, polygamy, crimes of honour and female genital mutilation". The report called on Member States, on the basis of their national legislation and the International Conventions, to "guarantee respect for the fundamental rights of immigrant women, whether or not their status is regular, particularly access to justice, legal aid, accommodation facilities and health care."

Women's immigration: the role and place of immigrant women in the European Union

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the own-initiative report drafted by Rodi KRATSA-TSAGAROPOULOU (EPP-ED, EL) on the role and place of immigrant women in the EU. (Please see the summary of 13/09/06.) The report was adopted by 449 votes in favour to 133 against with 55 abstentions. As well as access to employment and language training, Parliament emphasised the need to speak out against tradition-based violence against women, to condemn family-induced violations of the human rights of immigrant women and girls, and to check which laws are applicable to hold family members responsible, especially in the case of so-called honour crimes. It also asked the Commission to consider including a ban on polygamous marriages in its current proposal for introducing rules concerning applicable law in matrimonial matters.