



Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2006/2135(INI)	Procedure completed
Educational discrimination against women and girls		
Subject		
4.10.09 Women condition and rights		
4.40 Education, vocational training and youth		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	FEMM Women's Rights and Gender Equality		
European Parliament	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	CULT Culture and Education	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion	ŠPIDLA Vladimír	

Key events			
15/06/2006	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
13/11/2006	Vote in committee		Summary
27/11/2006	Committee report tabled for plenary	A6-0416/2006	
31/01/2007	Debate in Parliament		
01/02/2007	Results of vote in Parliament		
01/02/2007	Decision by Parliament	T6-0021/2007	Summary
01/02/2007	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2006/2135(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/6/37594

Documentation gateway					
Committee draft report		PE378.655	25/09/2006	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE380.601	11/10/2006	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A6-0416/2006	27/11/2006	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T6-0021/2007	01/02/2007	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2007)1016-2	27/02/2007	EC	
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2007)1426	10/04/2007	EC	

Educational discrimination against women and girls

The committee adopted the own-initiative report drafted by Vera FLASAROVÁ (GUE/NGL, CZ) on educational discrimination against young women and girls. The report began by pointing out that "education and training of girls and women is a human right and an essential element for the full enjoyment of all other social, economic, cultural and political rights". It said that, in the European Union, women make less progress overall than men through the education system, including life-long learning, on account of diverse gender-related restrictions.

Among its recommendations, the committee suggested that policy in the area of equal access to education should involve an assessment of gender-differentiated statistics. It also recommended that Member States create and monitor national educational policies designed to enable all girls to complete compulsory schooling, and said that special policies were needed for national, ethnic and cultural minorities, especially the Roma minority, including pre-school and zero grade programmes, with a multicultural approach to combat double discrimination. The Council, Commission and Member States were also urged to take action to protect the rights of immigrant women and girls and combat the discrimination they face in their communities of origin by rejecting all forms of cultural and religious relativism which could violate women's fundamental rights.

MEPs said that Member States should devise more flexible adult education and lifelong learning programmes so that working women and mothers are able to continue their education in programmes that fit in with their schedules. They also stressed that the pay gap between women and men remains high: on average women earn 15% less than men, which is the result both of non-compliance with equal pay legislation and structural inequalities such as labour market segregation, differences in work patterns, access to education and training, biased evaluation and pay systems and stereotypes.

Lastly, the report urged Member States to encourage access by women to positions of responsibility and decision-making in public and private undertakings, with particular attention being paid to academic positions: it pointed out that, in education and research, women outnumber men as graduates (59%), yet their presence decreases consistently as they progress on the career ladder, from 43% of PhDs down to only 15% of full professors.

Educational discrimination against women and girls

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the own-initiative report drawn up by Vera FLASAROVÁ (GUE/NGL, CZ) on educational discrimination against young women and girls. (Please see the summary of 13/11/2006.)