


Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2006/2214(INI)	Procedure completed
Women's role in the social, economical and political life in Turkey		
Subject 4.10.09 Women condition and rights		
Geographical area Turkey		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	FEMM Women's Rights and Gender Equality		25/04/2006
		PSE BOZKURT Emine	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	AFET Foreign Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations	REHN Olli	

Key events			
07/09/2006	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
20/12/2006	Vote in committee		Summary
11/01/2007	Committee report tabled for plenary	A6-0003/2007	
12/02/2007	Debate in Parliament		
13/02/2007	Decision by Parliament	T6-0031/2007	Summary
13/02/2007	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2006/2214(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		PE380.778	26/10/2006	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE382.312	27/11/2006	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A6-0003/2007	11/01/2007	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T6-0031/2007	13/02/2007	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2007)1040	21/03/2007	EC	

Women's role in the social, economical and political life in Turkey

[The committee adopted the own-initiative report by Emine BOZKURT \(PES, NL\) on women's role in social, economic and political life in Turkey](#). The report noted that, as evidenced by the Commission's 2006 report on Turkey's progress towards accession to the EU, Turkey's legal framework on women's rights "has in general been satisfactory, but its substantive implementation remains flawed". It welcomed the start of active EU accession talks with Turkey, but regretted "the slowing-down of the reform process in Turkey over the last year and the persistent problem with women's rights". It reiterated Parliament's previous calls for "full and effective implementation of the Community acquis in the field of women's rights, particularly in the poorer regions of the country" and pointed out that respect for human rights, including women's rights, is a precondition for membership of the EU. The report looked at a number of different areas:

- implementation of legislation: the Turkish Government was urged to speed up implementation of the new legislation on women's rights, to ensure that it complies with the Community acquis. The committee acknowledged that the new Penal Code (in force since 2005) substantially strengthens the basic rights of women but it pointed out that (unsuccessful) attempts have been made to repeal legislation on women's rights. It deplored the fact that, in parts of south-east Turkey, girls are not registered at birth and that this hampers the fight against forced marriage and honour crimes, since the victims have no official identity. The Turkish authorities were urged to ensure that all Turkish children are registered at birth;

- tackling violence against women: the report condemned "instances of violence against women, including honour killings, domestic violence, forced marriage and polygamy". It called on the Turkish Government and the Commission to tackle "violence in general and honour crimes in particular as a priority" and to set up special high-security shelters. It also identified other needs, such as training of police and judicial authorities in gender equality issues and the fight against violence, and the need for Turkish institutions to build alliances with all social groupings - civil, social or religious - to raise awareness of violence against women and children;

- women in politics: the report noted that very few women take part in politics in Turkey, and that there is a need for female role models in positions of power. It stressed that discrimination against women can sometimes best be remedied by temporary positive discrimination measures, and suggested the adoption of a mandatory quota system for election lists as the best way to improve female participation in Turkish politics in the short term. MEPs also urged Turkey's political parties to include more female candidates on election lists, starting from the upcoming elections in 2007;

- education and the labour market: the committee was concerned at the Commission's observation that women remain vulnerable to discrimination in Turkey, due partly to a lack of education and a high illiteracy rate. It cited UNICEF estimates that each year between 600 000 and 800 000 girls are either prevented by their families from going to school or do not attend it because of logistical difficulties. MEPs therefore called on the Turkish government to ensure gender equality in access to education and the labour market, especially in the south-eastern regions.

Lastly, MEPs stated that they intend to evaluate progress in the field of women's rights in Turkey on a regular basis, "in addition to, and in conjunction with, the yearly progress report of the Commission".

Women's role in the social, economical and political life in Turkey

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the own-initiative report drafted by [Emine BOZKURT \(PES, NL\) on women's role in social, economic and political life in Turkey](#). (Please refer to the summary dated 20/12/2006.) The report adopted by 552 votes in favour to 15 against with 53 abstentions.