



# Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	<a href="#">1995/2059(INI)</a>	Procedure completed
Preparation of the 4th action programme on equal opportunities between men and women		
Subject 4.10.04.01 Programmes and actions for gender equality		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 Women's Rights		31/01/1995
		PSE <a href="#">D'ANCONA Hedy</a>	

Key events			
25/04/1995	Vote in committee		Summary
25/04/1995	Committee report tabled for plenary	<a href="#">A4-0104/1995</a>	
15/05/1995	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
14/06/1995	Debate in Parliament		
14/06/1995	Decision by Parliament	T4-0288/1995	Summary
14/06/1995	End of procedure in Parliament		
03/07/1995	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1995/2059(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/4/06584

Documentation gateway					
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		<a href="#">A4-0104/1995</a> <a href="#">OJ C 151 19.06.1995, p. 0003</a>	25/04/1995	EP	

Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0288/1995 <a href="#">OJ C 166 03.07.1995, p. 0047-0062</a>	14/06/1995	EP	Summary
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## Preparation of the 4th action programme on equal opportunities between men and women

The committee adopted the report by Mrs d'ANCONA (PSE, NL) on the implementation of the third programme and the proposals for the fourth equal opportunities action programme. The report deplores the lack of criteria by which the success of the third programme can be measured (calling for such criteria to be included in the fourth programme) and welcomes the fact that the Commission intends to publish an annual report on equal treatment and introduce a system for monitoring the implementation of equal opportunities in all Union policies. As regards the fourth action programme, which the Commission is due to present over the coming months, the report stresses the need for it to concentrate on a more limited number of sectors than the previous programme in order to ensure that the resources allocated to it are not spread too thinly between too many measures. The Committee on Women's Rights also hopes that the partnership between the Union, the Member States and the social partners will be developed, considering that the Member States, social partners and non-governmental organizations have a fundamental part to play in defining the approach and priorities of projects in practice on the ground. More substantial resources should be allocated to programmes implemented in the Member States and information and public awareness campaigns should be improved. The fourth programme should also help to reconcile home and working life and pay closer attention to the needs of less advantaged women, such as older women, refugees and immigrants. The report stresses the need for existing legislation in this area to be applied more strictly and for the Commission to take sanctions against Member States who fail to do so. With regard to the concept of "full citizenship" debated during the UNO conferences in Cairo and Vienna, the Committee on Women's Rights feels that it should include economic, political, social and cultural activities and that full citizenship can only be achieved if there is a fair division of public and private responsibilities between men and women. Finally, the report calls on all the European institutions to introduce and follow a policy of positive action as regards their own staff.?

## Preparation of the 4th action programme on equal opportunities between men and women

In its resolution on the assessment of the third Community action programme on equal opportunities between men and women and the proposals for the next (fourth) programme, the European Parliament stressed the importance of having sufficient financial resources to implement all the projects proposed in the programme. In particular, it deplored the lack of criteria by which the success of the third programme could be measured and called for precise criteria to be included by which the impact of the next programme could be assessed. It felt that the various aspects of the equal treatment policy contained in the third programme should continue to be integrated and that this integration should be monitored by ensuring that there was clearer political and budgetary involvement on the part of the Commission. With regard to the content of the projects implemented, it felt that the overly large number of measures taken under third programme had tended to water down resources. The fourth programme should concentrate on a limited number of sectors, but in greater depth. It also called for more resources to be allocated to the practicalities of the programmes implemented in the Member States and for public awareness campaigns to be better tailored to the needs of specific national programmes. Parliament welcomed the fact that the Commission had announced that it would be drafting an annual report on the equal treatment of men and women and introducing a system for monitoring the inclusion of equal treatment in all Union policies. At the same time, it called for a more comprehensive definition of the national programmes implemented in 1994 under the third programme and for Member States to be required to inform the European Parliament on equal treatment issues. The European Parliament again urged the Commission to find innovative ways for women to reconcile their working and home lives and to promote them in the fourth programme (giving priority to single-parent families, older women, refugees and immigrants). In particular, it called on the Commission to promote measures designed to encourage the social partners and companies to guarantee vacancies where women were under-represented. The Community institutions should make a special effort here as regards their own staff. It also stressed the need for the Member States to apply all European legislation on equal opportunities correctly and called for a change of attitude towards women, who should see their involvement in working life develop harmoniously.?