


Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	1995/2109(INI)	Procedure completed
Implementation of the action programme of the Population Conference in Cairo		
Subject 4.10.14 Demography		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	FEMM Women's Rights		25/04/1995
		ARE FOUQUE Antoinette	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection		21/02/1996
		ELDR EISMA Doeke	
	DEVE Development and Cooperation		31/05/1995
		PPE CASINI Carlo	

Key events			
22/02/1995	Non-legislative basic document published	B4-0158/1995	
13/06/1995	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
25/04/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
25/04/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0152/1996	
03/07/1996	Debate in Parliament		
04/07/1996	Decision by Parliament	T4-0384/1996	Summary
04/07/1996	End of procedure in Parliament		
22/07/1996	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1995/2109(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative

Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 143-p5
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	FEMM/4/06696

Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document	B4-0158/1995	22/02/1995	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	A4-0152/1996 OJ C 181 24.06.1996, p. 0002	25/04/1996	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	T4-0384/1996 OJ C 211 22.07.1996, p. 0013-0031	04/07/1996	EP	Summary

Implementation of the action programme of the Population Conference in Cairo

The committee adopted the report by Mrs Antoinette FOUQUE on the follow-up to the Cairo International Conference on Population and Development. In the report, the committee highlighted the need for family planning measures to be integrated into health care and for these measures to be included in cooperation and development programmes as a matter of course. Women also needed to be given better access to education and employment in order to guarantee the success of any demographic and development policy. The rapport called, *inter alia*, for far greater access to health services for women and the right for women to determine freely whether or not they wanted children. ?

Implementation of the action programme of the Population Conference in Cairo

At the Cairo conference, it was established that the issues of population, poverty, methods of production and consumption, development and the environment were all closely dependent on one another and that this interdependence was largely based on women and, more precisely, on their lot in life. It was for this reason that in adopting the report of Mrs Antoinette FOUQUE (ARE, F), Parliament took the view that policies which dealt with the issue of population should be an integral part of economic, social and cultural development, their aim being to improve the quality of life for everyone (and for women in particular). . On the subject of family planning, Parliament reaffirmed that freedom to procreate was a fundamental right of the individual and condemned any policy of family planning which was discriminatory or indirectly coercive or violent. In order to avoid resorting to compulsory sterilisation and to directly or indirectly enforced methods of birth control, Parliament called for the methods of contraception being proposed by the various EU-funded population programmes for developing countries to be subject to scrutiny. It condemned any policy which involved using women from developing countries as guinea-pigs for testing new contraceptive products and called for provisions on family planning to be incorporated into genetic health care. In addition, the demographic policy and the health policy in respect of reproduction should be devised, decided and implemented with the participation of the local people, and in particular with the female population. It was also important to ensure proper education and to provide services which matched local conditions, so as to protect men and women from the spread of AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases. In the area of education and development: Parliament stressed that it was necessary to put an end to all forms of discrimination against women (equal opportunities, better access by women to education, credit, property ownership, rental agreements and employment, and equal opportunities for women in the field of politics and economics and in society in general). It also called for programmes to be set up for the creation of SMEs which would give priority to local employment initiatives for women. The latter should participate systematically in all development projects and programmes, and should be involved in these right from the outset. In this respect it called for a minimum of 10 % of MEDA funds, for cooperation with Asia, Africa and Latin America, to be allocated to specific actions to promote 'employment and education for women'; the same percentage would be earmarked for 'employment and education for women' under specific population programmes and projects. Parliament called on the EU to act as a catalyst in promoting current efforts towards achieving equality for women and took the view that existing efforts in this area should focus more intensively on the developing countries, on the CEECs and on the states of the former USSR. .On the question of funding, Parliament stressed that the EU and its Member States should honour their financial commitments in line with the Cairo Conference. It recommended that at the same time all international financial institutions should, when drawing up their various policies and programmes, take into account the needs of the communities in respect of the environment, health, education and housing. It also called on the World Bank and the other financial institutions to publish a list of donor countries which make financial commitments but fail to honour them. In view of the difficulties of implementing the Cairo programme, Parliament urged the EU to promote the creation of networks, analysis and exchange centres and new forms of partnership and called for the introduction of a system to exchange information on the initiatives and actions financed by the Community, the Member States, the EIB and other donors. Parliament called on the Commission to submit an annual assessment of the cooperation activities, of the current situation and of the level of cooperation between the Commission and the various international organisations and agencies (UNFPA), together with a list of experts from the Commission and from international organisations and agencies who cooperate in population programmes and development programmes. In the same connection, Parliament called for a framework agreement to be set up to hasten the implementation of the Cairo decisions in cooperation with the UNFPA. Finally, Parliament asked the Commission for information on the impact of certain budget headings on family policies in the developing countries and expressed the view that coordination would be required in this area in order to maximise the effects of the actions which had been taken. ?