

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Committee on Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities

2073/2002 (COS)

21 May 2002

OPINION

of the Committee on Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities

for the Committee on Culture, Youth, Education, the Media and Sport

on the communication from the Commission on Making a European Area of
Lifelong Learning a Reality
(COM(2001) 678 – C5-0165/2002 – 2073/2002 (COS))

Draftsperson: Anna Karamanou

PROCEDURE

The Committee on Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities appointed Anna Karamanou drafts person at its meeting of 18 April 2002.

The committee considered the draft opinion at its meeting of 21 May 2002.

At the last meeting it adopted the following conclusions unanimously with 1 abstention.

The following were present for the vote: Anna Karamanou, chairperson and drafts person; Marianne Eriksson and Jillian Evans, vice-chairpersons; María Antonia Avilés Perea, Regina Bastos, Geneviève Fraisse, Lissy Gröner, Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou, Astrid Lulling, Thomas Mann, Maria Martens, Emilia Franziska Müller, Christa Prets, María Rodríguez Ramos, Felekna Uca, Sabine Zissener, Karin Jöns for Fiorella Ghilardotti, Ilda Figueiredo for Armonia Bordes, Olle Schmidt for Lone Dybkjær and Anne E.M. Van Lancker for Hans Karlsson.

CONCLUSIONS

The Committee on Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities calls on the Committee on Culture, Youth, Education, the Media and Sport, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following points in its motion for a resolution :

- A. Taking into account the European Union's social -political agenda, as set by the Lisbon and Nice European Summits and more specifically its policy of raising women's employment participation to at least 60% in the coming years in the whole Union;
- B. Whereas Europe's social and economic development will further improve by an increasing rate of women in employment , in order to reach the Council's aim, appropriate supporting measures as well on European as on national level are essential;
- C. Whereas, despite the improvement in women's level of education and professional qualifications, considerable inequalities can still be observed between men and women in the employment market and in access to lifelong learning, with the result that women proportionally will increasingly end up in lower paid and lower skilled jobs in order to reach the 60% employment participation level;
 - 1. Calls on the Commission and the Council that the lifelong learning programmes to take full account of women's specific needs, emphasising consultation and professional guidance, financial incentives (scholarships, grants, etc.), research into women's professional development, their participation in decision-making processes, equal representation of both genders in the sciences and the new technologies and combating the gender-based divisions in the employment market;
 - 2. Calls on the higher education institutions, in co-operation with the scientific and professional associations, to develop flexible complementary education programmes which make use of the possibilities offered by new technology (remote learning, multimedia, Internet etc.), so that those involved will be able to combine lifelong learning with the demands of their professional and private lives;
 - 3. Emphasises that enterprises should play an active role and should encourage the ongoing updating of knowledge and the expansion of professional choices for women, by drawing up appropriate programmes for the adoption of best practices and the development of statistical data;
 - 4. Considers that, in order to combat social exclusion, priority should be given to vulnerable sections of the population who do not have easy access to professional training, such as single parents, immigrant women, women living in rural areas or in poverty; special attention should be paid to increase the number of women in sectors where they are under represented ;
 - 5. Calls on the Member States to focus their efforts to ensure that gender mainstreaming policy becomes part of the overall policy to promote lifelong learning.