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2. Women and science

A5-0082/1999

European Parliament resolution on the communication from the Commission entitled: 'Women and science' – Mobilising women to enrich European research (COM(1999) 76 – C5-0103/1999 – 1999/2106(COS))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission communication (COM(1999) 76 – C5-0103/1999),
 - having regard to its opinions of 18 December 1997 on the proposal and amended proposal for a European Parliament and Council decision concerning the Fifth Framework Programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities⁽¹⁾ and of 15 December 1998 on the proposals for Council decisions adopting specific programmes for research, technological development and demonstration⁽²⁾,
 - having regard to the Council Resolution of 20 May 1999 on Women and Science⁽³⁾,
 - having regard to the results of the conference on 'Women and Science' organised jointly by the European Parliament and the Commission in April 1998,
 - having regard to STOA project 99/19/01 entitled: 'Women professionals in the media in the context of new technological developments',
 - having regard to Article 157(1) and (2) of the EC Treaty,
 - having regard to Articles 2 and 3(2) of the EC Treaty,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities and the opinion of the Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy (A5-0082/1999),
- A. whereas research and development account for a significant proportion of Community activities and of budgetary allocations,
- B. whereas the work of women scientists is still too often unrecognised,
- C. whereas EU competitiveness depends upon innovation, including research and development and technology transfer,
- D. whereas European research could be much enriched by a greater contribution from women scientists,
- E. whereas all Member States are experiencing difficulties in recruiting scientists and engineers,
- F. whereas the Fifth Framework Programme, now under way, is specifically committed to incorporating the equal opportunities policy of the EU,
- G. whereas, in its annual review and mid-term evaluation of the Fifth Framework Programme, the Commission must assess the development of women's participation in the specific programmes and report back to Parliament on that issue,
1. Welcomes the Commission proposal to increase the involvement of women in programmes organised by the EU;
2. Calls on Member States to increase the number of fellowships available to women in the fields of science and technology;

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 14, 19.1.1998, p. 128.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 98, 9.4.1999, p. 39.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 201, 16.7.1999, p. 1.

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3. Welcomes the broad definition of 'science' adopted by the Commission, one which includes all scientific disciplines which generate knowledge;
4. Supports the strategy of research by, for and on women as being comprehensive and constructive;
5. Calls for gender-impact studies on the implementation of the Fifth Framework Programme to be taken into account when the Sixth Framework Programme is being drawn up so as to ensure that research topics of special interest to women are given due priority;
6. Approves the aim of collating a more comprehensive set of statistics on the involvement of women in different fields of science and research; believes that another aim should be to establish at European level a database of female experts which would serve to enhance perception of the potential of female expertise and, in so doing, widely publicise it;
7. Welcomes the willingness of the Commission to support studies and research into male-female relationships as social and political relationships;
8. Calls on the Commission to facilitate the publication and circulation of works concerning male-female relationships;
9. Supports the aim of cooperating with Member States in order to achieve those objectives;
10. Supports the idea of mobilising the numerous existing networks of women scientists and of securing their help in the formulation of European Union research policy;
11. Calls for the appointment of a large percentage of women to serve on committees that set policies, select and evaluate projects and control funds at both EU and Member State levels;
12. Notes that the Commission has undertaken to make substantial efforts to increase the participation of women in Community research programmes and that it considers it essential that a minimum of 40 % participation by women should be the target at all levels in the implementation and management of research programmes;
13. Calls for greater transparency regarding the membership of these panels;
14. Calls on Member States to cooperate with the Commission in the compilation of better statistics, in policy review work, in attending the planned conferences in 2000 and 2001 and in pursuing the objective of gender balance in scientific research at national level;
15. Calls for the adoption of appropriate measures to enable women to combine family life and professional life;
16. Expresses disappointment that only 9 % of the delegates proposed by Member States for advisory groups are women;
17. Calls on Member States to improve the balance between men and women when they nominate such national experts and committee members;
18. Calls on the Commission to investigate the reasons for the discrepancy between the number of women graduating in scientific disciplines and the number who are successful in obtaining professional posts;
19. Calls for the creation of programmes designed to inform young girls, as soon as they reach school age, about scientific research and openings and possible careers in that field;
20. Calls on all DGs in the Commission to consider setting up a properly resourced group similar to the Women and Science sector in the DG for Research, with responsibility for monitoring the effectiveness of mainstreaming in the work of each DG and for addressing the underrepresentation of women;

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21. Calls on the Commission to increase the number of women involved in peer review exercises, since this will familiarise women with Union procedures and programmes and encourage direct applications from them;
22. Calls on the Commission to incorporate the results of the gender-impact studies into plans for the Sixth Framework Programme and, more specifically, for implementing measures and positive action to combat the underrepresentation of women in science;
23. Supports the Commission's efforts to produce comparable data; calls on the Commission to publish statistics both on the percentage of EU fellowships granted to women and to men scientists, broken down by sector, and on the participation of women in the Fifth Framework Programme;
24. Calls on the Member States, when granting aid, to ensure that the award criteria are clear and that grants are made in conditions of the greatest possible transparency;
25. Calls on the Commission to promote the need for greater levels of numeracy, statistical and IT training amongst women, in consultation with national civil servants, women scientists and all interested parties;
26. Calls for EU preparatory assistance programmes for the applicant countries to encourage the promotion of scientific and technical skills in women;
27. Requests that the role of women in scientific research in the countries with which the European Union is carrying out joint programmes — especially developing countries — should not be ignored;
28. Calls for the common agricultural policy and the Structural Funds to be reviewed in order to ascertain whether women are adequately represented in scientific and technical work;
29. Calls for engineering and science skills for girls and women to be targeted alongside literacy programmes in EU projects for developing countries;
30. Calls on the Commission to coordinate benchmarking exercises in order to assess the effectiveness of gender-segregated classes for science subjects alongside other measures such as teacher training to avoid discrimination in mixed classes and assertiveness training for girls and women; furthermore, calls on the Commission to maximise and optimise instruments and techniques which provide support for girls in science classes;
31. Calls on the Commission to avoid where possible, and to combat where necessary, the unjustified positive discrimination in favour of boys in educational and scientific policy with regard to both the world of work and higher education;
32. Calls on the Member States to take measures which support the dissociation of attitudes to course selection from traditional gender-specific role models;
33. Calls on the Commission to facilitate mentoring systems within networks of women scientists;
34. Calls on the networks of women scientists to mobilise and become better involved in decision-making and policy-making processes, at both EU and Member State level;
35. Calls on the Commission to observe the 'International Women's University of Technology and Culture', to be held as part of the Hanover Expo 2000, and to take note of its experiences;
36. Calls on the Commission to create Europe-wide 'Consensus' conferences as part of the Sixth Framework Programme, with at least 50 % women participants, from all walks of life; believes that these conferences should provide non-scientist citizens with the opportunity to explore complex scientific issues, with appropriate help and information;

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37. Further to Commissioner Kinnock's proposals for internal Commission reform, calls on the Commission to investigate and report on the percentage of women directors in the DG for Research and in the Commission as a whole;

38. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission and Council.

3. Altener 1998-2002 ***III

A5-0011/2000

European Parliament legislative resolution on the joint text approved by the Conciliation Committee for a European Parliament and Council decision adopting a multiannual programme for the promotion of renewable energy sources in the Community (Altener) (1998-2002) (C5-0333/1999 – 1997/0370(COD))

(Codecision procedure: third reading)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the joint text approved by the Conciliation Committee and the relevant Council, Commission and Parliament statement (C5-0333/1999),
- having regard to its position at first reading⁽¹⁾ on the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council (COM(1997) 550),
- having regard to the Commission's amended proposal (COM(1999) 212 – C4-0245/1999),
- having regard to its position at second reading on the Council common position⁽²⁾,
- having regard to the Commission's opinion on Parliament's amendments to the common position (COM(1999) 560 – C5-0248/1999),
- having regard to Article 251(5) of the EC Treaty,
- having regard to Rule 83 of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the report of its delegation to the Conciliation Committee (A5-0011/2000),

1. Approves the joint text, and confirms the statement thereon;
2. Instructs its President to sign the act with the President of the Council pursuant to Article 254(1) of the EC Treaty;
3. Instructs its Secretary-General duly to sign the act and, in agreement with the Secretary-General of the Council, to have it published in the Official Journal of the European Communities;
4. Instructs its President to forward this legislative resolution to the Council and Commission.

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 175, 21.6.1999, p. 262.

⁽²⁾ Texts adopted of 6.10.1999, Item 11.
