

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

---

*Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality*

**2008/2331(INI)**

12.2.2009

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

for the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

on a common immigration policy for Europe: principles, actions and tools  
(2008/2331(INI))

Rapporteur: Iratxe García Pérez

PA\_NonLeg

## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality calls on the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

- A. whereas the number of women immigrants is constantly increasing in the EU, accounting for approximately 54 % of the total number of immigrants,
- B. whereas most women immigrants encounter significant problems in integrating and in accessing the labour market due to their low level of education and the negative stereotypes and practices brought from their countries of origin, as well as the negative stereotypes and discrimination that exist in the Member State; whereas, nonetheless, many young women with a high level of education come to the EU to take relatively unskilled jobs,
  1. Calls on Member States to review their legislation so as to ensure that spouses and children are granted an individual status and work permit independent of that of the principal legal status holder;
  2. Calls on Member States to guarantee respect for the fundamental rights of immigrant women, whether or not their status is legal;
  3. Invites Member States to use Community financial instruments in the field of common immigration policy, proportionally and fairly distributed between women and men;
  4. Calls on the Member States, when considering applications for autonomous legal status, to take due account of the circumstances of women immigrants who are victims of physical and psychological violence, including forced prostitution, arranged marriages and female genital mutilation, and to put in place measures to protect such women and to simplify the procedures for granting them a temporary or permanent residence permit;
  5. Calls on the Member States to support information campaigns aimed at migrant women, with a view to informing them about their rights, the possibilities of education and language training, professional training and access to employment, and to prevent forced marriages, female genital mutilation, and other forms of mental or physical coercion;
  6. Asks the Member States to promote the participation of women immigrants in the labour market and social and political life, to fight undeclared work, to ensure respect for women's social rights (such as equal pay, social security, pension rights), to provide support for entrepreneurship, prevent poverty and exclusion and promote the role of the social partners and trade unions;
  7. Calls on the Council, the Commission and the Member States to enhance the legal framework guaranteeing immigrant women the right to hold their own passport and residence permit and making it possible to hold a person criminally responsible for taking these documents away;
  8. Calls on the Commission to collect gender-related data on immigration into the EU and to

arrange for the analysis of that data by the European Institute for Gender Equality in order to highlight further the particular needs and problems of women immigrants and the most appropriate methods of integrating them into the societies of the host countries.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	10.2.2009
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 24 -: 0 0: 0
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Edit Bauer, Hiltrud Breyer, Edite Estrela, Ilda Figueiredo, Věra Flasarová, Lissy Gröner, Urszula Krupa, Pia Elda Locatelli, Astrid Lulling, Doris Pack, Marie Panayotopoulos-Cassiotou, Zita Pleštinská, Anni Podimata, Christa Prets, Teresa Riera Madurell, Eva-Riitta Siitonen, Eva-Britt Svensson, Britta Thomsen, Anna Záborská
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Gabriela Crețu, Ana Maria Gomes, Donata Gottardi, Elisabeth Jeggle, Maria Petre