

URGENT AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY LAZIO REGIONAL COUNCIL (Mrs. Elisabetta Rauti)

The CALRE and gender representation in regional parliaments

Equality between men and women is a fundamental right, a common value of the European Union and a necessary condition for the achievement of European objectives of development, employment and social cohesion.

Nowadays women occupy 10% of the directorates and only 3% of the presidents of the boards of directors of the largest publicly traded European companies. With current growth rates, half a percentage point a year, another 50 years will be necessary before the management bodies of enterprises will be composed of at least 40% women, because the growth of the number of women on boards of directors is only half a percentage point per year.

Despite the persistence of disparities, the European Union has made significant progress towards gender equality. This was supported by legislation and implemented in the adoption of a dual approach: the inclusion of equality in the various EU policies (gender mainstreaming) and the adoption of specific measures for women's emancipation.

The Strategy for equality between women and men is the work program of the European Commission on Gender Equality for the period 2010-2015. The Commission's commitment is to promote gender equality in all its policies for the following thematic priorities: equal economic independence for women and men, equal wages for equal works, equality in the decision-making process; dignity, integrity and an end to violence against women; promotion of gender equality outside the EU borders, horizontal issues (gender roles, regulatory and governmental tools).

Taking the example of Norwegian shares, the European Parliament has welcomed the initiatives of France, the Netherlands and Spain to reach the thresholds and adopted a non-binding resolution drafted by Vice-President Rodi Kratsa and adopted with 534 votes to 109 votes against and 29 abstentions. The resolution states that, starting from 2015, women have to cover 30% of high management positions in high-largest publicly traded community companies and 40% by 2020. If the voluntary measures to increase the number of women in decision-making positions should prove unsuccessful, we will implement the European legislation.

The promotion of equal participation of women and men in decision-making and economic policy is one of the five priorities of the Charter for Women, the European Commission adopted on March 5th, 2010.

The European Parliament Resolution of March 8th of 2011 on equality between women and men emphasizes the need for greater efforts at European, national, regional and municipal level to increase women's representation in political spheres. The European Parliament also stresses that Member States establish mandatory targets through legislation to ensure equal representation of women in positions of responsibility, giving a positive opinion on the use of quotas to promote women's representation.

The presidents of CALRE believe that regional parliaments should play a significant role in promoting the removal of obstacles to full gender equality in social, economic and cultural life and thus promoting equal access to elective office.

To this end, they consider starting a structured common dialogue essential to start the study and the coordinated action on regional legislations, first in electoral issues, in order to protect, promote and ensure the balance of representation and to achieve genuine equality.

The Presidents of CALRE commit themselves in undertaking the discussion on gender representation, through the creation of a forum and a platform of proposals that can become a common heritage and valuable tools to address this emergency of participation by exploiting the reforming commitment of all European regional parliaments with legislative powers.

SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSAL

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