

[9] Resolution adopted by the EPP Congress
Rome, 30-31 March 2006

Employment of women

Taking notice that women are not regarded as important actors in the realisation of the Lisbon Strategy, of which one of priorities is to increase the employment rate in general in Europe, including the employment rate of women;

Taking notice that women's employment is very low, due to circumstances that are not favourable for women entering the labour force, a systematic depreciation of women's professional work, and policies that put women off doing professional work,

The EPP urge the European Commission and Member States to take the following measures:

Regarding creating circumstances that are favourable to the employment of women:

- 1- To organise sufficient, affordable and accessible child care facilities, taking into account the demands of the labour market and in particular the employment of women;
- 2- To develop and implement measures to make working time as attractive for men as for women, allowing the parent(s) to combine professional and family life;
- 3- To change mentalities, in order to establish an equal division of family and domestic tasks, by combating sexist stereotypes in education, the media and in advertising.

Regarding the appreciation of women's professional work:

- 4- To present an annual evaluation by the European Commission of the Member State reports on putting into practice the Directives on Equal Payment, Equal Treatment and Gender Equality in Social Security Systems, and to combat gender inequalities and gender sectoral- and occupational segregation.

Regarding encouraging women to have a professional career:

- 5- To pursue an individualisation of fiscal and social security rights throughout the Member States, by starting to reform all tax and social policies which currently encourage women to stay at home.

Thus, women's contribution to the economy will be more important, their participation in society and in politics will be more effective, and the Lisbon Strategy more likely to reach its goals.