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A3-0073/91

R E P O R T

of the Committee on Women's Rights  
on a European prize for women

Rapporteur: Mrs Carmen LLORCA VILAPLANA

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*A Series Reports - B Series: Motions for Resolutions, Oral Questions - C Series: Documents received from other Institutions (e.g. Consultations)*

*	= Consultation procedure requiring a single reading	**II	= Cooperation procedure (second reading) which requires the votes of a majority of the current Members of Parliament for rejection or amendment
**I	= Cooperation procedure (first reading)	***	= Parliamentary assent which requires the votes of a majority of the current Members of Parliament

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Procedural page . . . . .	3
A. <u>Motion for a resolution</u> . . . . .	4
B. <u>Explanatory statement</u> . . . . .	6
<u>Annex: Motion for a resolution B3-0614/89</u> . . . . .	10

At its sitting of 15 January 1990 the European Parliament referred the motion for a resolution by Mrs Llorca Vilaplana (B3-0614/89), pursuant to Rule 63 of the Rules of Procedure, to the Committee on Women's Rights as the committee responsible.

On 30 January 1990 the committee decided to draw up a report and appointed Mrs Llorca Vilaplana rapporteur.

The Committee on Women's Rights considered the draft report at its meetings of 23 February 1990, 22 May 1990, 19 September 1990 and 4 February 1991 and adopted the motion for a resolution on 19 March 1991 by 9 votes to 2.

The following took part in the vote: Crawley, chairman; Llorca-Vilaplana, vice-chairman and rapporteur; von Dijk, Gröner, Hermans, Lulling, O'Hagan, Pollack, Rothe (for Maibaum), Simons (for Vayssade) and van Hemeldonck (for van der Brink).

The report was tabled on 26 March 1991

The deadline for tabling amendments to this report will appear on the draft agenda for the part-session at which it is to be considered.

A

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on a European prize for women

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the motion for a resolution by Mrs Llorca Vilaplana (B3-0614/89),
  - having regard to the success of the NIKE and Women of Europe prizes, which have raised the level of participation and enhanced the profile of the contributions made by women in the social and professional spheres,
  - having regard to the report of the Committee on Women's Rights (A3-0073/91),
- A. having regard to the social objectives recognized in the Treaty of Rome, in respect of the situation and recognition of women's activities; whereas, in the three action programmes on the situation of women, emphasis is placed on the need to encourage women's work by means of appropriate forms of recognition; whereas the existing prizes mentioned above need to be supported and reinforced by others so as to encompass and reward more of the many women who do valuable work, often unmentioned, which is not always appreciated or recognized,
- B. whereas prizes of the type suggested in the motion for a resolution (B3-0614/89) would certainly be well received by the European public,
- C. whereas, in terms of the principles laid down for developing a genuine Community spirit, prizes of this kind make an effective contribution to durable relations between women in Europe,
- D. aware of the key future role of women in society and mindful of the importance thereof at the beginning of a new century,
- E. mindful of the appearance of new attitudes generated by the Community spirit which are opposed to violence and discrimination and seek the eradication of human exploitation in its many forms,
- F. mindful of the role to be played by women in this new society,

1. Calls for the creation of awards, to be known as 'HELENA Prizes', for women in the following sectors:
  - science and scientific research,
  - art and literature,
  - industry and commerce,
  - human merit;
2. Each of these prizes shall be worth 100 000 ECU and shall be awarded on 8 March each year (International Women's Day);
3. Candidates may have their names put forward by official institutions or organizations and may also put their own names forward;
4. The jury shall be composed of a representative of each country designated by his/her government and shall be chaired by the Chairman of the Committee on Women's Rights;
5. The prize-winners each year shall be entitled to sit on the jury the following year with speaking but not voting rights;
6. A trophy of a symbolic nature shall be awarded to winners along with the cash prize as part of an official ceremony chaired by the President of the European Parliament;
7. There shall be no provision for non-award of the prizes;
8. Efforts shall be made to set up a fund to guarantee support for the above prizes and to finance, at some point in the future, grants for research into the aims and topics distinguished by the prizes;
9. Requests that the necessary funds be earmarked for the 1992 budget, including funds for a supplementary staff member for the secretariat of the Committee on Women's Rights;
10. Suggests that the Dublin foundation on the Improvement of Working and Living Conditions and the Florence Institute be informed of the creation of the Helena prize so that their assistance can be sought when deciding on candidates for the prize;
11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council and the governments of the Member States.

B

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Women's fight to attain a fair share of responsibility and representation in society, institutions and national and international organizations has set the tone of a decade in recent history - the sixties - during which much activity was devoted to achieving legal equality between men and women.

Despite the legal recognition of equality, which no government can now deny and which is enshrined at international level, society continues to harbour prejudices and resistance which will only be overcome if women are constantly present in all sectors of life.

The 1960s, marked by the explosion of feminism in many different forms - including a strong radical element - saw confrontations and debates which have affected and compromised positions already won. These positions have again been assailed by arguments which, although discredited, are now used to delay or paralyse the kind of changes in society which would give women the rightful position for which they have fought so hard.

The collective gains made by women in public life have come only recently. The European Parliament has consistently contributed to the posing and solving of problems of interpretation in the application of laws.

It is thanks to its action in this field that the European Parliament, supported by its Committee on Women's Rights - the first to exist in parliamentary history - has led the way in the field of women's rights.

It therefore appears logical that the European Parliament should take the initiative and create prizes in recognition of the new phase now beginning in women's lives - now that they are making an impact on human society both collectively and as individuals - and aimed at ensuring that their gains are consolidated, their rights confirmed and their presence accepted as indispensable in all aspects of public life.

In addition to contributing to the stabilization and security of society, the above aims alone justify the creation of awards designed to recognize the value of women's achievements in conquering and holding positions which have been and continue to be difficult to attain.

The European Parliament is aware of the important role which women will play in future society, the challenge of the year 2000, the idea that society will evolve through the application of principles of equality, women's presence in new professions, life in the new cities, the co-existence of the various sectors of society, the awakening of new aesthetic sentiments, the fight against violence and discrimination, and the eradication of organized crime, prostitution, trafficking in persons, kidnapping and exploitation.

In view of all these challenges and the necessary changes in society, women will have to take on and assert their role in an enterprise which men and women must carry out together.

### 1. The proposed new award and the NIKE and Women of Europe prizes

The NIKE and Women of Europe prizes should be borne in mind when the new award is designed. The three prizes should be complementary, in confirmation of their ultimately joint aim: to define a new image of European women which will highlight women's rights and opportunities in the Europe of the future.

The NIKE prize, created by the European Commission in response to a proposal from the European Parliament, is aimed at the field of television with a view to promoting the production of programmes dealing with woman's role in society.

The Women of Europe prizes are awarded to a European woman who has contributed to the European enterprise and set an example, whether in Europe or the countries of the Third World, of women's activity and way of life.

It is vital to ensure that the new prize does not duplicate the existing awards, but at the same time to leave as much scope as possible for the new prize.

### 2. Scope of the new prize

The new prize will be awarded in the following fields:

- Art: women who have distinguished themselves in the arts and, through their way of life, have created a new role model for European women;
- Industry and commerce: women who have reached an outstanding position in this sector, entering high levels of management and demonstrating to women that it is possible to reach levels of management which have hitherto been reserved almost exclusively for men;
- Humane values: women who, through their conduct, have shown humane values and public spirit and who have set an example to European women in the field. An example would be Angela Casella of Pavia who has been fighting against the Calabrian mafia for many years, mobilizing public opinion and thus succeeding in intimidating her enemies;
- Science and scientific research: women who have distinguished themselves in the field and demonstrated the scale of women's ability, which deserves greater recognition and increased opportunities of entering scientific professions.

### 3. Organization of the prize

The prize should be sponsored by the Community and the European Parliament should play a major part.

The prize should be organized as follows:

- the main sponsorship would come from the European Parliament, the prizes being awarded by the President of the European Parliament;

- the European Commission - through its Brussels offices - and the Member States would cooperate in publicizing and organizing the prize. Parliament's offices in the various capitals would give backing to the Commission, informing the media about the prize and cooperating with the jury in the selection of candidates;
- the jury would be composed of a representative of each Member State and at least one Member of the European Parliament. The other members would be chosen among experts in the field and would probably include an official of the European Commission;
- the jury's structure and the funding of the prize are outlined below.

#### 4. Structure of the prize

The Commission's experience in administering the NIKE and Women of Europe prizes suggests the following:

- a European prize of this kind entails the setting up of a complex structure in each Member State. There should be a fixed point of reference in each Member State which would provide the necessary operating basis and ensure adequate publicity. The Commission was able to rely on the support of the European Federalists and broadcasting companies in the Member States. It was only in this way that the Commission was able to benefit from an organized network in each Member State, which would otherwise have been extremely expensive to set up. It is almost certain that the new prize will have to follow the same course, since there is no existing structure capable of ensuring effective support in each Member State. Parliament's offices in the European capitals could give valuable help, but they do not have adequate staff or resources to provide all the necessary back-up. It would be worthwhile to raise this problem with Mr Arnaldo Ferragni, Director-General of Information and Public Relations, perhaps inviting him to talk to the Committee on Women's Rights;
- the jury: the Commission's experience shows that meetings of the jury, composed of one member per Member State, entail considerable cost. A sometimes lengthy period of meetings is required, involving highly qualified individuals and requiring appropriate accommodation and a secretariat, since the task of receiving nominations and selecting candidates may involve complex administration. The criteria for selecting the jury should be designed so that the people invited on to the panel are well-known figures who will lend weight to the prize;
- coordination: the members of the jury should coordinate their work, applying the same selection criteria and, above all, not losing sight of the aim of the prize, which should retain a European character.

#### 5. Cooperation between Parliament and the Commission

The new prize should be organized in close cooperation with the European Commission. This is desirable for practical reasons, since Parliament would benefit from its experience in administering the two existing prizes and share the structures established by the Commission. These structures, together with



those of the European Parliament, could constitute the operating basis for the administration of the new prize.

Close cooperation between the two institutions is also desirable from a political point of view, although Parliament's role should predominate in political matters. Parliament must contribute to the creation of a new image for women, as the Commission has already done. In the run-up to 1993, the European Parliament cannot be absent from a political enterprise aimed at contributing - through a new image of European women - to the concept of a European citizen free from discrimination on grounds of sex and having equal access to the professions.

30 November 1989

SERIES B

DOCUMENT B3-0614/89

**MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

**Mrs LLORCA VILAPLANA**

pursuant to Rule 63 of the Rules of Procedure

**on the creation of a European prize for women who  
have made an outstanding contribution in the fields  
of culture, research, art, the working environment  
and humane values**

## The European Parliament

- A. having regard to Article 9 of the draft Treaty establishing the European Union, according to which one of the Union's objectives is to bring about the humane and harmonious development of society, an essential part of which is equality between men and women,
- B. mindful of the need to give proper recognition to women's work, not only in the home but also in the fields of culture, creativity and the working environment, and to promote women's initiatives in activities which provide an example and encouragement for all women,
- C. whereas it would be worthwhile to introduce a European award for women who, through their work, provide an example which helps to strengthen their confidence in their own ability and their real opportunities for progress,
  - 1. Proposes the creation of a European prize to be awarded in recognition of the value of women's contribution to Western society through their activities in the field of culture, art, research, work in the home, business and humane values;
  - 2. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission.

