

## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

1976 - 1977

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30 September 1976

DOCUMENT 319/76

ORAL QUESTIONS (0-48, 0-49/76)

with debate, pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

by Mrs KRUCHOW, on behalf of the Liberal and Allies Group to the Council

and the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Mexico World Conference to mark  
International Women's Year

The Mexico World Conference to mark International Women's Year 1975 stressed that women in developing countries are underprivileged in many ways. For example, Article 9 of the World Plan of Action states:

In many countries, women make up a large proportion of the agricultural labour force. In view of this, and because of their important role in agricultural production and in the preparation, processing and marketing of foodstuffs, they represent an important factor in the economy. Considering the fact that agricultural workers lack technical equipment, education and training, it is evident that the position of women within this sector is, in many countries, doubly disadvantaged.

Art. 93 states:

Governments must seek new means of encouraging self-help activities, e.g. training programmes in farm management and rural development which must be open to both sexes on equal terms.

And Art. 96:

Special efforts must be made to increase participation by female farm workers in the formulation of national plans for the integrated development of rural areas.

Chapters 4 to 7 of Protocol 2 to the Lomé Convention provide for certain new measures including aid to the least developed states and 'microprojects' to be carried out normally in rural areas. These projects include dams, wells and water supply systems, silos and warehouses for storing provisions and crops, rural service tracks, primary schools, social assistance centres etc. Applications relating to such projects can only be considered if they are submitted by the responsible local authorities. These 'microprojects' seem to be especially suited for the involvement of women on equal terms with men at every stage.

The members of the institutions of the Lomé Convention are drawn in equal numbers from the EEC and ACP countries. The Community's representatives should be in a position to support the resolutions of the Mexico conference, in which a large number of representatives from the developing countries also took part.

1. Will the Council/Commission therefore use the forum of the Lomé Convention to encourage the developing countries to grant women greater opportunities than hitherto to contribute on equal terms with men to the process of national development?
2. If so, how does the Council/Commission intend to act?