

ORAL QUESTION H-0698/08

for Question Time at the part-session in September II 2008  
pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure  
by Jana Hybášková  
to the Commission

Subject: Ban on the promotion of feminism in the call issued by the Czech Republic's Ministry for Employment and Social Affairs concerning resources from the European Social Fund

In connection with an operational programme entitled 'Human resources and employment' the Czech Republic's Ministry for Employment and Social Affairs has published Call No 26 for the submission of grant projects in Support Area 3.4. (Equal opportunities for men and women in the employment market - combining a job with a family). The call is accompanied by the following statement: 'Projects may not be political in nature and they must not seek to further any kind of political or ideological aim, including the ideologies of feminism or masculism.'

Does such a condition not contravene the rules governing the drawing of resources from the European Social Fund? Does the imposition of that kind of restrictive condition lie within the powers of a Czech body in relation to the ESF? If it does, is that condition not too strictly worded? Might it not contravene the proportionality principle or even be too discriminatory?

Feminism is not a radical ideology but, rather, a legitimate social principle. Movements and non-profit-making organisations which embrace feminist views are at the same time the main promoters and implementers of projects which help to bring about equal opportunities for men and women; the author of this question fears that this strictly worded condition may serve as a pretext for automatically excluding them as applicants.

Tabled: 09.09.2008

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