



## CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN WOMEN'S NETWORK FOR SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

**Press Release**  
11 February 2010  
**For immediate release**

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### **Women must have control over their sexual and reproductive rights**

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Warsaw/Brussels/Strasbourg, 11 February 2010 – ASTRA network welcomes the resolution of European Parliament on the new yearly “Report on Equality between men and women in the European Union” that resulted in inclusion of the new Article 38 calling for women control over their sexual and reproductive rights.[1]

The yesterday's voting in the European Parliament successfully concludes years of ASTRA and other women's groups campaigning for legislation ensuring women's full control over their sexual and reproductive rights.

The full text of the Article 38 emphasises that women must have control over their sexual and reproductive rights, notably through easy access to contraception and abortion; emphasises that women must have access free of charge to consultation on abortion; supports, therefore – as it did in its above-mentioned resolution of 3 September 2008 – measures and actions to improve women's access to sexual and reproductive health services and to raise their awareness of their rights and of available services; invites the Member States and the Commission to implement measures and actions to make men more aware of their responsibilities in relation to sexual and reproductive matters.

ASTRA Coordinator Wanda Nowicka speaking on the occasion of the voting said “ASTRA Network expresses great satisfaction that the European Parliament addressed SRHR in its Equality Report and supported right and access to abortion and contraception as women's fundamental right”.

ASTRA network has been actively advocating Polish MEPs to support the resolution. The result of the voting signalises changes in equal rights policy approach at the European level by parliamentary groups to include SRHR as integral component of equality policies. ASTRA hopes that these changes will be reflected at the national level especially in Central and Eastern European countries – added Nowicka.

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Notes:

[1] Report on equality between women and men in the European Union – 2009

[COM(2009)0077 - 2009/2101(INI)]

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=REPORT&reference=A7-2010-0004&language=EN>

ASTRA members:

Albania - Albanian Family Planning Association, Armenia - Women's Rights Centre, Azerbaijan - Centre "Women and Modern World", Belarus - Women's Independent Democratic Movement of Belarus, Bulgaria - Bulgarian Family Planning and Sexual Health Association, Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation, Gender Education, Research and Technologies, Croatia - B.a.b.e. (Be Active, Be Emancipated), CESI - Centre for Education and Counselling of Woman, Women's Centre for Sexuality and the Prevention, Research, and Combating of Sexual Violence - Women's Room, Georgia - Women's Centre, Kazakhstan - The Legal Centre for Women's Initiatives "Sana Sezim", Lithuania - Family Planning and Sexual Health Association, Latvia - Latvia's Association for Family Planning And Sexual Health, Macedonia - Sheltar Centar, Moldova - Reproductive Health Service Centre, Poland Federation for Women and Family Planning, Romania - The East European Institute of Reproductive Health, AnA: Society for Feminist Analysis, Russia - Institute of State and Law, Russian Academy of Sciences, ANO "Women's Health", Novogorod Gender Centre, Slovakia - Pro – choice, Ukraine - Women Health and Family Planning, Charitable SALUS Foundation, ASTRA ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: Centre for Reproductive Rights, Ipas, Women's Link Worldwide/Colombia.

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