

CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR

WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS

ARTICLE 154

Role of Women in Development

The Member States agree that women make significant contribution towards the process of socio-economic transformation and sustainable growth and that it is impossible to implement effective programmes for rural transformation and improvements in the informal sector without the full participation of women. To this end, the Member States shall through appropriate legislative and other measures:

- (a) promote the effective integration and participation of women at all levels of development especially at the decision-making levels;
- (b) eliminate regulations and customs that are discriminatory against women and specifically regulations and customs which prevent women from owning land and other assets;
- (c) promote effective education awareness programmes aimed at changing negative attitudes towards

women;

- (d) create or adopt technologies which will ensure the stability of employment and professional progress for women workers; and
- (e) encourage and strengthen institutions which are engaged in the promotion and development of labour-saving devices aimed at improving the productive capacity of women.

ARTICLE 155

Role of Women in Business

1. Having recognised the importance of women as a vital economic link within the chain of agriculture, industry and trade, the Member States agree to:
 - (a) increase the awareness of Women in Business issues at the policy level;
 - (b) create an enabling environment for the effective participation of women in Common Market trade and development activities;
 - (c) promote special programmes for women in small and medium-size enterprises;

- (d) eliminate such laws and regulations that hinder women's access to credit;
 - (e) initiate changes in educational and training strategies to enable women to improve their technical and industrial employment levels through the acquisition of transferable skills offered by various forms of vocational and on-the-job training schemes; and
 - (f) recognise and support the Federation of National Associations of Women in Business established to promote the effective participation of women in the Common Market trade and development activities.
2. The Federation of National Associations of Women in Business shall be represented at the Consultative Committee and be represented at the meetings of the Technical Committees of the Common Market.
3. Implementation activities pursuant to the provisions of this Chapter shall be submitted to the appropriate Technical Committees depending on the technical items under consideration.