



**PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF PORTUGAL
TO THE OSCE**

RC.DEL/175/10
13 October 2010

ENGLISH only

**Human Dimension Sessions
of the 2010 Review Conference**

**30 September to 8 October 2010, Warsaw, Poland
26 to 28 November, Astana, Kazakhstan**

Working Session 1: Democratic Institutions

Contribution of Portugal

Participation and Representation of Women in Portugal

The Constitution establishes that the law must promote equality in the exercise of civil and political rights and the non-discrimination on the grounds of sex in the access to political posts. **The Parliament adopted on 20 April 2006 a Law** (Organic law 3/2006, of 21 August, amended by declaration 71/2006, of 4 October 2006) **which sets at 33,3% the minimum representation for both sexes in the electoral lists for the National Parliament, the European Parliament and for Local Authorities, having effects on the percentage of elected members**, corresponding to a quantitative threshold to parity.

Only in the cases of lists of candidates for election to the councils of civil parishes with 750 or fewer voters and municipalities with 7500 or fewer voters, the rule does not apply. In order to ensure a minimum representation of 33,3% of each sex in the lists, the plurinominal list of candidates should not have more than two persons of the same sex successively. If the lists do not respect these rules, the public financing of the electoral campaigns may be reduced. In 2011, the Parliament will evaluate the impact of this Law in the promotion of equal participation of women and men, and revise the Law if necessary.

The Law has been fully applied for the first time to the local, national and European elections which took place in 2009 and produced effects in increasing the number of women elected. For the **European Parliament**, 36,4% of the elected candidates were women, compared to 25% at the last elections in 2005. For the **legislative elections (national Parliament)**, the percentage was 27,4% compared to 21% in 2005. After some replacements due to the Government composition, the



**PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF PORTUGAL
TO THE OSCE**

percentage of women in Parliament is 29, 1%. The main reason for not having reached 33% of women in the national Parliament is the fact that although candidates' lists should not have more than two persons of the same sex successively, political parties usually placed men at the beginning of the list.

Members of the Assembly of the Republic (Parliament) (Elections were last held on the 27th September of 2009), by sex and political party:

Parties	Total n° of MPs	Women	
		Number	%
PS (Socialist Party)	97	28	29.2
PSD (Social Democratic Party)	81	22	28.2
Popular Party	21	4	19.1
Left Coalition	16	6	37.5
PCP (Communist Party) - PEV (The Greens)Coalition	15	3	20.0
Total	230	63	27.4

All the political parties represented in parliament are led by men.

The Socialist **Government** that came into office in October 2009 had 55 members of which 10 were women: 5 ministers (out of 16) – Education, Culture, Health, Environment and Labour; and 5 secretaries of state (out of 37). – Administrative Simplification, Equality, Health, Home Affairs, Planning and Urban Affairs, Rehabilitation.

In the **local elections** of October 2009, only 23 women were elected as mayors, out of a total of 308 municipalities (7.5%).

Members of the Regional Assemblies (Parliaments of the Autonomous Regions of the Azores and of Madeira), by sex:

Autonomous Regions	Total n° of MPs	Women	% of Women
Madeira (2007 election)	47	7	14.9
Azores (2008 election)	57	9	15.8

In the **Regional Government of Madeira** only 1 in 9 seats belong to a woman and in the **Regional Government of Azores** only 2 in 10 seats belong to women.

The Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality launched in 2010 a **study aimed at assessing the degree of implementation of the Law** in order for the Parliament to evaluate, in 2011, the impact of this Law in the promotion of balanced representation of women and men, and revise it if necessary.



**PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF PORTUGAL
TO THE OSCE**

In order to promote the participation of women in politics, campaigns and awareness raising events have taken place on the issue, namely the **national wide campaign** on women and decision-making “Women make democracy better” launched in March 2009 and disseminated on national and cable TV, radio, outdoors, ATMs and through distribution of free postcards in restaurants, cinemas, theatres and cultural centers.

Cooperation with the municipalities resulted in five **awareness-raising sessions** in different regions at national level aimed at raising the awareness of the participants to the importance of women’s participation in organizations and in the political life, as well as to good practices of communication in public. These sessions were inspired in the method “Women can do it”, translated into Portuguese and published by the Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality. These training sessions took also place in several municipalities of the Autonomous Regions of Azores and Madeira.

Cooperation between CIG and the National Youth Council also gave way to the implementation of these awareness-raising sessions in the national territory addressed to youth associations (with the support of the Portuguese Youth Institute), in order to promote the participation of young women in all the spheres of public life and, in particular, their participation in political life.

In order to ensure **women’s participation in public administration**, a Council of Ministers Resolution has enshrined the active promotion by the public sector, as employer, of a policy of equal opportunities between women and men, when it comes to the direct or indirect replacement of employees leaving the administration. This is aimed at the prevention of any form of discrimination when admitting new staff¹.

In 2005, the situation of women in directing positions in the Central Public Administration was as follows:

Professional Level	Women	Total	Feminisation rate (%)
Higher management positions of 1st grade	105	363	28.9
Higher management positions of 2nd grade	314	780	40.3
Middle management positions of 1st grade	819	1 607	51.0
Middle management positions of 2nd grade	994	1 845	53.9
Other management positions	210	521	40.3
Management positions	686	1 821	37.7

Source: BDAP (Public Administration Data Base) with reference date of 31 December 2005.

¹Council of Ministers Resolution 38/2006, of 18 April



**PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF PORTUGAL
TO THE OSCE**

The overall feminization rate of Central Public Administration was 61%.

Representation of Women in other Decision-making bodies

Decision-making bodies	Total number of members	Women	
		Number	%
Constitutional Court	13	3	23.1
Higher Council of the Magistracy	17	4	23.5
Council of State	18	1	5.5
National Council for Education	66	19	28.8
National Council of Ethics for the Sciences of Life	19	7	36.8
Economic and Social Council	54	9	16.7
National Council of Sports	30	4	13.3