



2015/2353(INI)

25.5.2016

OPINION

of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

for the Committee on Budgets

on preparation of the post-electoral revision of the MFF 2014-2020:
Parliament's input ahead of the Commission's proposal
(2015/2353(INI))

Rapporteur: Clare Moody

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality calls on the Committee on Budgets, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

- A. whereas the 2008 study aimed at assessing the feasibility of, and options for, the introduction of elements of gender budgeting into the EU budgetary process, commissioned by the Directorate-General for Budget of the Commission, confirmed that, despite its unique features, the EU budget is suitable for gender budgeting and that gender budgeting can be applied at all stages of the budgeting process, from planning and preparation to auditing and evaluation;
1. Recognises that gender equality is a fundamental value of the EU which is enshrined in the Treaties and which should be included in all EU policies to deliver equality in practice; stresses that gender equality must become a policy objective in budget titles, that, similarly, gender mainstreaming must be recognised in budget titles as an implementation method, and that gender budgeting must therefore become an integral part of the budgetary procedure at all its stages, but that progress on this front has been marginal in respect of all policies; expects the Commission, therefore, to design a gender budgeting methodology and apply it to the EU budget; stresses that programmed and appropriate budgetary resources are needed for effective gender mainstreaming policies and in order to advance gender equality; welcomes the MFF mid-term review as an opportunity to make significant progress, in light of the 'Budget for Results' agenda, and to present further measurable and realistic objectives, including assessing achievements to date, in order to truly embed gender perspectives in the EU budget for the remainder of this programming period;
 2. Welcomes the focus on the 'Budget for Results' agenda as an opportunity for budget spending to deliver integrated benefits of gender equality with every euro spent; also recognises that simplification measures in the 'Budget for Results' agenda must not be taken at the expense of investments that can bring positive change with a view to achieving gender equality;
 3. Draws attention to the existing gender-related targets in the Europe 2020 strategy, namely increasing female employment to 75 % and achieving equal pay between women and men, gender equality in the membership of national parliaments and an equal number of women on large company boards, all of which we are a long way from reaching; also draws attention to the European Parliament's related priorities under Horizon 2020, which include the promotion of gender equality, especially in research and innovation; stresses that the MFF review must assess progress towards these targets and should, if necessary, revise the measures being taken to achieve them;
 4. Stresses that, despite the joint declaration attached to the MFF on gender mainstreaming, no specific measures have so far been taken; calls for effective monitoring of the implementation of this declaration in the annual budgetary procedures and for more effective integration thereof in the MFF revision;
 5. Recalls that, according to UNHCR data, 55 % of the refugees and asylum-seekers entering

the EU since January 2016 have been women and children; calls, given that women and girls are disproportionately disadvantaged and at risk in situations of crisis and conflict, for the MFF revision to look at financial tools targeting the specific needs of women and girls, including in respect of sexual and reproductive health services and the combating of gender-based violence, under headings 3 (Security and Citizenship) and 4 (Global Europe), at measures aimed specifically at integrating women and child refugees and asylum-seekers into their host country, including flexible language training, education and childcare, and at measures addressing the root causes of their original displacement;

6. Stresses that investing public funds in the care sector, including quality and affordable childcare, social care services and long-term and elder care services, creates jobs, drives economic growth, fosters gender equality and allows more women to return to, or take up, full-time work, given that women spend 2 to 10 times more time on unpaid care than men; calls for the MFF revision to be used to invest in this social infrastructure in Europe as part of the Jobs and Growth Agenda and the Europe 2020 strategy, making specific provision for investment in entrepreneurship education for women; notes that this form of expenditure is rarely considered to be a suitable form of investment when policymakers are looking for effective forms of employment generation in recessionary times, and that in fact we often witness the opposite, as public expenditure on education, health, childcare and social care services is cut in many countries as part of their deficit reduction strategies; considers it regrettable that this neglect of social infrastructure reflects a gender bias in economic thinking and may derive from the gender division of labour and from gender employment segregation, which in turn contribute to the widening gender pay gap in Europe; regards the review of the MFF as a chance to take action to address this;
7. Reiterates that the Daphne programmes played a fundamental role in combating violence against children, young people and women in the EU, but deplores the fact that this is no longer considered to be an expenditure area in its own right; underlines the need for sufficient financial support and for more clarity on how this objective is pursued under the Rights, Equality and Citizenship programme; insists on the importance of funds reaching grassroots organisations on the ground in order to ensure effective implementation.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	24.5.2016
Result of final vote	+ : 18 - : 4 0 : 0
Members present for the final vote	Daniela Aiuto, Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea, Malin Björk, Vilija Blinkevičiūtė, Viorica Dăncilă, Iratxe García Pérez, Teresa Jiménez-Becerril Barrio, Elisabeth Köstinger, Agnieszka Kozłowska-Rajewicz, Barbara Matera, Marijana Petir, Pina Picierno, Terry Reintke, Liliana Rodrigues, Michaela Šojdrová, Ernest Urtasun, Beatrix von Storch
Substitutes present for the final vote	Arne Gericke, Clare Moody
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	David Coburn, Ulrike Rodust, Siôn Simon