



2016/2047(BUD)

6.9.2016

OPINION

of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

for the Committee on Budgets

on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2017
(2016/2047(BUD))

Rapporteur: Viorica Dăncilă

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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 according to a joint declaration by the Parliament, the Council and the Commission from November 2013, the annual budgetary procedures should integrate gender-responsive elements; whereas gender budgeting has not been consistently applied by any of the EU institutions;
 - B. whereas the Daphne programme played a fundamental role in combating violence against children, young people and women in the EU by funding awareness-raising campaigns and projects that reach out to those most at risk, and Parliament repeatedly asked to ensure that the Daphne programmes' profile is kept as high as possible;
 - C. whereas Parliament has called in the past for increase in the number of the staff of the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) in order to fulfil its new, additional task as the European Monitoring Centre on Gender-Based Violence;
 - D. whereas the 2008 economic recession saw a rise in austerity measures being applied across Member States in an attempt to stabilise the economy;
1. Welcomes the mainstreaming of gender-equality as a cross-cutting policy objective of the EU budget in EU funds and programmes; recalls that spending and revenue decisions impact women and men differently; underlines, therefore, that gender budgeting is a key tool to combat gender inequalities; urges the adoption of gender budgeting, in both Union and national strategies for more effective promotion of gender equality, including quantifiable budget allocations, gender impact assessments on the different consequences that spending decisions have on women and men and results indicators in order to rectify the imbalances between men and women; also calls for the highest level of transparency to be used for funds allocated to gender equality;
 2. Calls for the 'Budget for Results' agenda to be used as an opportunity for budget spending to deliver integrated benefits of gender equality with every euro spent;
 3. Highlights that jobs, growth and investments remain the overarching priority of the 2017 EU budget; draws attention to the existing gender-related targets in the Europe 2020 strategy, namely increasing female employment from only 63,5 % currently 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;
 4. Stresses the need to sufficiently finance under the European structural and investment funds measures promoting and supporting good-quality education, employability and job creation for women and girls, to improve their chances of good quality offers of employment, continued education, apprenticeships or traineeships; notes that more funds should be allocated for women and girls who would like to start up their own business and for entrepreneurship;

5. Calls for resources to be allocated from Union funds to promote women's rights and gender equality through education, health services, notably sexual and reproductive health and rights services, girls' empowerment, and women's political representation;
6. Calls for the 2017 budget to use European Fund for Strategic Investment and the European Social Fund (ESF) to finance good-quality, accessible and affordable care facilities in areas where there is a shortage to help reach the Barcelona targets and also contribute to the reconciliation of the work-life balance;
7. Highlights that gender segregation is one of the largest contributors to the EU gender pay gap (16.1 % in 2014) and consequently the average EU pension gap (40.2 % in 2014); Notes, in this regard, that more funds should be allocated to increase women's participation in sectors where they are currently underrepresented such as science, technology, engineering, maths and ICT, as a tool to close the pay gap, increase the economic independence of women and elevate their position in the labour market;
8. Notes that the financial crisis has led to cutbacks in public services and benefits in Member States; notes that those cuts fall heaviest on women; highlights the increased financial insecurity due to non-standard forms of employment and temporary contracts, and notes more older women and single mothers living in poverty; therefore calls for the 2017 budget to mobilise the ESF across all Member States by investing in work-life balance reconciliation in order to help more women into work and improve their socio-economic situation; calls for a coherent use of gender budgeting;
9. Notes that the 2017 budget tries to provide an effective European response to the migration challenge; stresses the need to assign funds for providing specific assistance to, and promoting integration, ensuring medical treatment, including access to safe abortion for women and girls who are victims of rape in armed conflicts and monitoring the situation of female refugees and asylum seekers in the EU including skills training, flexible language training, education, health and good-quality childcare facilities to help women refugees integrate into their host countries; believes that, in particular, tailored facilities should be put in place in order to create suitable areas for mothers and children, and special attention should be given to women and girls victims of violence, including FGM;
10. Deplores the fact that the Daphne programme is no longer considered to be an expenditure area in its own right; welcomes the small increase in the planned allocations of the Daphne specific objective within the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme; recalls that the planned allocations do not reach the level of the previous programming period; emphasises its call for sufficient financial support and visibility for Daphne and for the assigned funds to be used fully and effectively; highlights the importance of Daphne Programme funds reaching, in a transparent manner, grass-roots organisations in Member States with expertise in dealing with victims and those at risk as well as proactive awareness-raising campaigns;
11. Calls for increased measures aimed directly at disadvantaged groups of women, investing in high-quality public services and, specifically, guaranteeing adequate provision of high-quality services for childcare, elderly care and care of other dependent persons, and calls for genuine budgetary transparency in respect of the funds (ESF, PROGRESS, Daphne) allocated to gender equality policies;

12. Calls for the adoption of strategies for more effective promotion of equality between men and women; highlights the need to earmark increased funding for the fight against all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls;
13. Regrets the proposed cut in the number of staff of EIGE; reiterates its call to allocate additional financial resources and staff to EIGE in order for it to fulfil its new, additional task of the European Monitoring Centre on Gender-Based Violence as called for by the European Parliament;
14. Regrets the proposed cuts in humanitarian aid (HUMA) and development cooperation (DCI), as these are especially important for women and gender equality.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	1.9.2016
Result of final vote	+ : 17 - : 1 0 : 4
Members present for the final vote	Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea, Malin Björk, Vilija Blinkevičiūtė, Anna Maria Corazza Bildt, Iratxe García Pérez, Mary Honeyball, Elisabeth Köstinger, Agnieszka Kozłowska-Rajewicz, Angelika Mlinar, Angelika Niebler, Maria Noichl, Margot Parker, Marijana Petir, João Pimenta Lopes, Terry Reintke, Liliana Rodrigues, Jordi Sebastià, Ernest Urtasun, Anna Záborská
Substitutes present for the final vote	Clare Moody, Julie Ward
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Emilian Pavel