



9.6.2017

# OPINION

of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

for the Committee on Budgets

on the mandate for the trilogue on the 2018 draft budget  
(2017/2043(BUD))

Rapporteur: Constance Le Grip

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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 Articles 2 and 3(3) of the Treaty on European Union (TEU), equality between women and men is a founding value of the EU and one of its aims, and according to Article 8 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), the European Union shall promote equality between women and men in all its activities; whereas gender mainstreaming and gender budgeting are important tools in the integration of this principle into EU policies, measures, actions and development programmes with a view to promoting the active involvement of women in the labour market and economic and social activities, as well as to combating discrimination;
- B. whereas it is essential that, in the implementation of the Rights, Equality and Citizenship programme, Daphne retains as high a profile as possible; whereas the Commission must take into consideration the need to maintain sufficient funding levels and ensure the continuity of actions and predictability of funding in all areas covered by the specific objectives; whereas a larger budget should be available for combating violence against women, as one in three women in the EU has experienced gender-based violence;
- C. whereas enhancing the competitiveness of the EU economy, infrastructure, well-funded research, support for developing skills and the continued commitment of the EU to strengthening investment are key to ensuring sustainable growth and quality job creation; whereas women's and girls' potential must be further increased in the field of the digitalised economy and in the STEM and ICT sectors in order to achieve true gender equality, overcome gender stereotypes and contribute to the growth and innovation of the economy;
- D. whereas health is a precondition for economic prosperity and whereas efficient spending on health can promote growth; whereas coordinated policies and initiatives at EU level to combat health inequalities and promote gender equality should include action to eliminate inequalities in access to sexual and reproductive health care services;
- E. whereas access to public services is crucial for women's economic independence and empowerment, while public services remain an important employment sector for women;
  1. Recalls that gender mainstreaming is a legal obligation stemming directly from the Treaties; calls for the enforcement of gender budgeting within the budgetary procedure and for budgetary expenditure to be used as an effective tool for promoting equality between women and men; recommends developing a budget plan for implementing gender mainstreaming in the EU institutions, as per the adopted pilot project, and including in the future a specific budget line for managing the coordination of gender mainstreaming throughout the EU institutions;
  2. Calls on the EU and the Member States to counter the impact of the gag rule by significantly increasing financing for sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), in particular funding explicitly destined to ensure access to birth control and safe and legal abortion, using both national and EU development funding, in order to fill the financing

gap left after the Trump administration's moves to cease funding all overseas aid organisations that provide SRHR services;

3. Calls for increased resources in order to realise women's economic rights and reduce gender inequality, including through the use of the existing instruments at EU and Member State level, such as gender impact assessments; calls for gender budgeting to be used for public expenditure to ensure equality between women and men and remove all gender inequalities;
4. Emphasises that under Article 8 of the TFEU the promotion of equality between men and women is a fundamental principle of the European Union; recalls that the issue of gender equality should be incorporated into all policies and addressed at all levels of the budgetary process;
5. Repeats its call for each specific objective of the Rights, Equality and Citizenship programme, also with a view to preparing the next MFF, to have a separate budget line in order to increase transparency regarding use of the funds and to ensure the necessary funding for each of the specific objectives and for their visibility;
6. Calls for the adoption of gender budgeting in European strategies for more effective promotion of gender equality; highlights the need to earmark increased funding for the fight against all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls;
7. Calls on the Member States to make use of the funds available under the European Social Fund and the European Regional Development Fund to promote gender equality, particularly in the field of employment, not merely by implementing gender mainstreaming, but also by implementing measures aimed directly at disadvantaged groups of women, taking due account of the impact of the economic crisis, investing in high-quality services and, specifically, guaranteeing adequate provision of high-quality services at affordable prices for childcare, care for the elderly 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;
8. Calls on the EU to promote women's rights and gender equality under EU development aid, through education, health services (notably SRHR), the empowerment of girls, and women's political representation;
9. Calls for funding to be allocated to programmes supporting women's entrepreneurship, including SMEs created and led by women, as part of the COSME programme, and ensuring and encouraging access for women to loans and equity finance;
10. Highlights the need to attract more women into the STEM and ICT sectors; underlines the need to finance programmes that provide quality education and training to women and girls and raise their awareness about the possibilities offered in the STEM and ICT sectors, as part of Horizon 2020, Erasmus +, the European Social Fund and the Youth Employment Initiative;
11. Deplores the fact that the European Fund for Strategic Investments does not include a gender perspective and stresses that a successful recovery process is not possible without addressing the impact of the crises on women;

12. Stresses the important role of the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) in contributing to and strengthening the promotion of gender equality, including gender mainstreaming all Union policies and collecting relevant data and expertise in the area of gender equality, including combating violence against women and girls; stresses that in order to adequately fulfil its objectives, the EIGE should remain a separate dedicated entity within the EU institutional framework; calls for its budget and staff establishment plan to be increased in order to adequately strengthen its capacity to assist the Commission by providing relevant data and technical assistance in priority areas, such as combating gender-based violence;
13. Calls on the Commission to include the promotion and improvement of SRHR in its next Public Health Strategy.

## INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

<b>Date adopted</b>	8.6.2017
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 14 -: 2 0: 0
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Daniela Aiuto, Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea, Malin Björk, Vilija Blinkevičiūtė, Antanas Guoga, Anna Hedh, Agnieszka Kozłowska-Rajewicz, Florent Marcellesi, Angelika Mlinar, Ernest Urtasun, Jana Žitňanská
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Inés Ayala Sender, Branislav Škripek, Dubravka Šuica
<b>Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote</b>	Inmaculada Rodríguez-Piñero Fernández, Patricija Šulin

## FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

14	+
ALDE	Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea, Angelika Mlinar
EFDD	Daniela Aiuto
GUE/NGL	Malin Björk
PPE	Antanas Guoga, Agnieszka Kozłowska-Rajewicz, Dubravka Šuica, Patricija Šulin
S&D	Inés Ayala Sender, Vilija Blinkevičiūtė, Anna Hedh, Inmaculada Rodríguez-Piñero Fernández
VERTS/ALE	Florent Marcellesi, Ernest Urtasun

2	-
ECR	Branislav Škripek, Jana Žitňanská

0	0

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention