

Action Plan on Gender Mainstreaming of the Industry, Research and Energy Committee (ITRE)

Introduction

Gender equality forms an integral part of the EU's founding values (Art.2-3 TEU). Promotion of gender equality is also listed as a horizontal principle that the EU must take into account in all its activities (Art.8 TFEU).

Gender mainstreaming refers to "the integration of a gender perspective into every aspect of EU policy-preparation, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, legal measures and spending programmes- with a view to achieving equality between women and men"¹

In order to implement the principle of gender mainstreaming in all its activities, the European Parliament decided, in its resolution of 13 March 2003 and following resolutions, that the gender perspective should be integrated in the work of its committees and delegations and set the premises for the Gender Mainstreaming Network to be established².

The importance of gender mainstreaming is taken into consideration in the work of the ITRE Committee through policy and it has already been implementing measures to adopt a gender mainstreaming approach in its work, and will continue in doing so.

The purpose of this action plan is to codify the existing good practices and implement recommendations issued by the Gender Mainstreaming Network, as well as to ensure that coherent and continuous attention is being paid to the issue of gender mainstreaming in the committee's work. The following commitments are based on the 2016 Gender Mainstreaming Network recommendations on the work of the committees and delegations³.

Policy work:

- The Committee on Industry, Research and Energy appoints one of its Members as responsible for gender mainstreaming. The Member actively participates in the Gender Mainstreaming Network.
In fact, on 24 September 2014 ITRE appointed Mr Petersen as ITRE Standing Rapporteur for gender mainstreaming, Ms Kumpula Natri, Ms Lopez Bermejo and Mr Tamburrano were appointed as substitutes to replace the Standing Rapporteur in case of absence.
- Where relevant, a gender perspective is integrated into draft reports and opinions. Groups are invited to give due attention to Gender mainstreaming amendments tabled by the Committee of Women's Rights and Gender Equality.

¹ SWD(2015)0278

² Commission communication "Incorporating equal opportunities for women and men into all Community policies and activities" (COM(96)0067) from 1996 which established the principle of gender mainstreaming; resolutions of 2003, 2011 and 2016 on gender mainstreaming in the work of the European Parliament

³ Gender Mainstreaming Network and recommendations incorporated in the European Parliament resolution of 8 March 2016 on gender mainstreaming

- When dealing with reports or opinions which could affect women and men differently once implemented, the Committee shall make sure to maintain a gender perspective in its work and avoid, disadvantages based on gender. The Committee should always strive towards gender-neutral implementation of policies throughout its reports and opinions.
- Whenever relevant, the Committee should also stress the importance of gender balance in STEM⁴-related topics as well as in remote and disadvantaged geographical areas.
- Whenever relevant, in preparing reports and opinions, due attention is given to studies and analyses on gender equality and women's rights carried out by the European Parliament and other relevant documents available.
- Whenever relevant, the committee shall ask for gender-sensitive quantitative and qualitative indicators and gender disaggregated data in the monitoring and evaluation of policies, programs and projects.

Practices of the work of Members and staff:

- The Committee uses Gender-neutral language (EP Guidelines "Gender neutral language in the European Parliament) in all documents related to the work of the committee and shall continue in this practice;
- The Committee seeks to ensure, where possible, a gender balance amongst paid experts and invited speakers when organising hearings and workshops and if possible, when sending a delegation visit to Member States;
- The information/written material on gender aspects of policy related issues and best practices in gender mainstreaming are circulated in the committee by the Gender Mainstreaming Network Member and by the Secretariat.
- When using statistics and tables, gender disaggregated data is included whenever available;
- Cooperation should be encouraged with the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), the High-Level Group of Gender Equality and Diversity, FEMM Committee and the gender mainstreaming network
- Ensure that information/written material on gender issues and best practices in gender mainstreaming are circulated in the committee, whenever appropriate;

Monitoring and evaluation of the gender action plan in ITRE committee

- Implementation of this action plan is followed regularly by the Member responsible for gender mainstreaming supported by the Secretariat.

⁴ Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics