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*Plenary sitting*

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**A9-0096/2024**

12.3.2024

# REPORT

on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Institute for Gender Equality for the financial year 2022  
(2023/2152(DEC))

Committee on Budgetary Control

Rapporteur: Petri Sarvamaa

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## 1. PROPOSAL FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DECISION

### **on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Institute for Gender Equality for the financial year 2022 (2023/2152(DEC))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the final annual accounts of the European Institute for Gender Equality for the financial year 2022,
- having regard to the Court of Auditors' annual report on EU agencies for the financial year 2022, together with the agencies' replies<sup>1</sup>,
- having regard to the statement of assurance<sup>2</sup> as to the reliability of the accounts and the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions provided by the Court of Auditors for the financial year 2022, pursuant to Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
- having regard to the Council's recommendation of 22 February 2024 on discharge to be given to the Institute in respect of the implementation of the budget for the financial year 2022 (00000/2024 – C9-0000/2024),
- having regard to Article 319 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
- having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012<sup>3</sup>, and in particular Article 70 thereof,
- having regard to Regulation (EC) No 1922/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 December 2006 on establishing a European Institute for Gender Equality<sup>4</sup>, and in particular Article 15 thereof,
- having regard to Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/715 of 18 December 2018 on the framework financial regulation for the bodies set up under the TFEU and Euratom Treaty and referred to in Article 70 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>5</sup>, and in particular Article 105 thereof,
- having regard to Rule 100 of and Annex V to its Rules of Procedure,

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C, C/2023/594, 27.10.2023.

<sup>2</sup> OJ C, C/2023/112, 12.10.2023.

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1.

<sup>4</sup> OJ L 403, 30.12.2006, p. 9.

<sup>5</sup> OJ L 122, 10.5.2019, p. 1.

- having regard to the opinion of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Budgetary Control (A9-0096/2024),
- 1. Grants the Director of the European Institute for Gender Equality discharge in respect of the implementation of the Institute's budget for the financial year 2022;
- 2. Sets out its observations in the resolution below;
- 3. Instructs its President to forward this decision, and the resolution forming an integral part of it, to the Director of the European Institute for Gender Equality, the Council, the Commission and the Court of Auditors, and to arrange for their publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union* (L series).

## 2. PROPOSAL FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DECISION

### **on the closure of the accounts of the European Institute for Gender Equality for the financial year 2022 (2023/2152(DEC))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the final annual accounts of the European Institute for Gender Equality for the financial year 2022,
- having regard to the Court of Auditors' annual report on EU agencies for the financial year 2022, together with the agencies' replies<sup>1</sup>,
- having regard to the statement of assurance<sup>2</sup> as to the reliability of the accounts and the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions provided by the Court of Auditors for the financial year 2022, pursuant to Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
- having regard to the Council's recommendation of 22 February 2024 on discharge to be given to the Institute in respect of the implementation of the budget for the financial year 2022 (00000/2024 – C9-0000/2024),
- having regard to Article 319 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
- having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012<sup>3</sup>, and in particular Article 70 thereof,
- having regard to Regulation (EC) No 1922/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 December 2006 on establishing a European Institute for Gender Equality<sup>4</sup>, and in particular Article 15 thereof,
- having regard to Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/715 of 18 December 2018 on the framework financial regulation for the bodies set up under the TFEU and Euratom Treaty and referred to in Article 70 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>5</sup>, and in particular Article 105 thereof,
- having regard to Rule 100 of and Annex V to its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the opinion of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C, C/2023/594, 27.10.2023.

<sup>2</sup> OJ C, C/2023/112, 12.10.2023.

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1.

<sup>4</sup> OJ L 403, 30.12.2006, p. 9.

<sup>5</sup> OJ L 122, 10.5.2019, p. 1.

Equality,

- having regard to the report of the Committee on Budgetary Control (A9-0096/2024),
- 1. Approves the closure of the accounts of the European Institute for Gender Equality for the financial year 2022;
- 2. Instructs its President to forward this decision to the Director of the European Institute for Gender Equality, the Council, the Commission and the Court of Auditors, and to arrange for its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union* (L series).

### 3. MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION

**with observations forming an integral part of the decision on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Institute for Gender Equality for the financial year 2022  
(2023/2152(DEC))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its decision on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Institute for Gender Equality for the financial year 2022,
  - having regard to Rule 100 of and Annex V to its Rules of Procedure,
  - having regard to the opinion of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality,
  - having regard to the report of the Committee on Budgetary Control (A9-0096/2024),
- A. whereas, according to its statement of revenue and expenditure<sup>1</sup>, the final budget of the European Institute for Gender Equality (the ‘Institute’) for the financial year 2022 was EUR 8 432 919,91, representing a decrease of 2,99 % compared to 2021;
- B. whereas the Court of Auditors (the ‘Court’), in its report on the annual accounts of the European Institute for Gender Equality for the financial year 2022 (the ‘Court’s report’), states that it has obtained reasonable assurance that the Institute’s annual accounts are reliable and that the underlying transactions are legal and regular;
- C. whereas Article 8 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) states that in all its activities the Union shall aim to eliminate inequalities, thereby establishing the principle of gender mainstreaming, and to promote gender equality between men and women; whereas gender equality must be incorporated into all Union policies, including via gender budgeting at all levels of the budgetary process;
- D. whereas the 2023 Gender Equality Index demonstrates that Member States have made a modest increase of only 1,6 points to reach 70,2, with some domains showing signs of regression, in particular in economic and income metrics<sup>2</sup>; whereas the Institute was established in order to contribute to, and strengthen the promotion of, gender equality in the Union, including gender mainstreaming in all Union policies and the resulting national policies, to fight against discrimination based on gender, and to raise Union citizens’ awareness of gender equality;

#### ***Budget and financial management***

1. Notes that the budget monitoring efforts during the financial year 2022 resulted in a budget implementation rate of current year commitment appropriations of 97,91 %,

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C 38, 31.01.2023, p. 63.

<sup>2</sup> <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-equality-index/2023>

representing a decrease of 1,01 % compared to 2021; notes that the current year payment appropriations execution rate was 81,10 %, representing an increase of 9,72 % compared to 2021; commends the Institute for the close monitoring of budget implementation and the satisfactory budget implementation rates in 2022, despite the challenges of that year linked to the war of aggression against Ukraine and the economic volatility in the Union; acknowledges the decrease in the Institute's carry-over operating expenditure to 42,28 % in 2023, compared to 54,79 % in 2022;

2. Notes that the amount of the Institute's final budget is the result of amending budgets of a total of EUR 175 000 adopted by the Institute's management board due to the sharp rise in the rate of inflation in the Union and particularly in Lithuania in 2022, an indexation of salaries of 6,9 % and a rise in the correction coefficient applicable to Lithuania of 7,3 %;
3. Notes with concern that, according to the Court's report, the Institute had not disclosed, for a framework contract for event organisation services, the related earmarked budget appropriations of EUR 3,7 million in the Institute's single programming documents (SPD), thus undermining the budgetary transparency towards the Institute's board and other stakeholders; calls on the Institute to include all operational framework contracts in its single programming documents;

### *Performance*

4. Observes that the Institute uses certain key performance indicators in relation to operational objectives to assess the added value provided by its activities; notes with appreciation that the Institute achieved 96,1 % of its work programme in 2022 and reached the targets set in the amended 2022-2024 single programming document;
5. Welcomes the fact that in 2022 the Institute supported Union policymaking by monitoring gaps and trends in gender equality by launching the Gender Equality Index, and organised its first Gender Equality Forum, which featured various panel discussions, workshops and experience sessions by high-level political decision-makers and members of civil society; notes further that the Institute produced a policy brief regarding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on young women and men, providing recommendations to engage and empower the youth; notes in addition that the Institute published a report entitled 'Artificial Intelligence, platform work and gender equality' showing that artificial intelligence and platform work have the potential to improve gender equality in the economy;
6. Recalls that the Institute was established in order to contribute to and strengthen the promotion of gender equality in the Union by providing quality research and comparable data, to help the Union institutions and the Member States to mainstream gender equality in all their policies and to combat gender-based discrimination; stresses, therefore, the fact that the Institute has a crucial role in collecting, analysing, processing and disseminating data and necessary information for policy makers and the policies of the Union and the Member States;
7. Stresses the importance of combating inequalities among and injustices against women; calls on the Commission and Member States to take urgent action to address poverty and increasing inequalities among women, especially among groups in vulnerable



situations, including single mothers, women with disabilities, racialised women, LGBTIQ+ women, migrant women and refugees, elderly women and women in rural or scarcely populated areas; notes that that could be achieved by meeting the need for increased funding for gender equality actions in terms of employment and growth, as well as to combat gender-based violence and the pay gap between men and women, the pension pay gap between men and women, the impact of crises on women, gender mainstreaming and budgeting, the increasing poverty rate among women, as well as in terms of rights and democracy and the rule of law;

### ***Efficiency and gains***

8. Notes the Institute's synergies with, *inter alia*, the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound), the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) and the European Agency for Safety and Health Work; observes that, according to the Institute's replies, the Institute is an active member of the justice and home affairs (JHA) agencies' network, keeps regular contact with all the other JHA agencies and actively participates in activities of the EU Agencies Network of Scientific Advice; further notes the Institute's cooperation with data providers such as Eurostat, FRA, Eurofound or Eurojust;
9. Commends the Institute for the progress made to improve its internal efficiency in 2022 through further digitalising its work processes as well as maximising the use of online communications and virtual participation in meetings and events; notes, in particular, that in 2022 the Institute developed or deployed several tools, such as the electronic signature tool, Sysper2 (the Commission's human resources management tool), the e-recruitment tool and the project management tool, contributing to the automatisisation and digitalisation of key processes (human resources and project and financial management); observes that the Institute has shared its human and financial resources in order to use the inter-agency contract for the provision of services for the evaluation of projects; observes further that the Institute defined several measures to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and adopt environmentally friendly work practices (environmental sustainability clauses in the Institute's contracts, the recycling of paper and plastic, electronic workflows and the collection of data on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions caused by the Institute's business travels);

### ***Staff policy***

10. Notes that, on 31 December 2022, the establishment plan was 100 % filled, with 27 officials and temporary agents (TAs) appointed out of 27 TAs and officials authorised under the Union budget (the same number of posts as in 2021); notes that in addition in 2022 the Agency's staff turnover rate was 11 %, identical to the rates in 2021 and 2020;
11. Notes that the Institute completed the annual performance appraisal exercise for all 62 members of staff and ensured that members of staff were offered appropriate training opportunities aimed at improving their skills and competencies; welcomes that, in order to promote and facilitate professional development in the Institute, 19 different group training programmes were organised in 2022 with 414 participants, while 20 statutory members of staff took part in 42 individual training courses; notes that the Institute continued to promote language training for its TAs, contract agents, seconded national

experts and trainees, reimbursing up to EUR 500 per staff member; encourages the Institute to keep focusing on career development by developing a long-term human resources policy on offering specific training possibilities for career development;

12. Welcomes the fact that balanced gender distribution, which was achieved in 2021 in senior and middle management (2 men (50 %) and 2 women (50 %)), was maintained in 2022 and notes the recurrent unbalanced gender distribution on the management board (8 men (21,62 %) and 29 women (78,38 %)) and among staff overall (14 men (29,17 %) and 34 women (70,83 %)); reiterates its call on the Institute to ensure gender balance in the future; acknowledges, nevertheless, that, according to the Institute's written replies, in order to achieve gender balance among its staff, it has taken concrete pro-active steps and measures such as increasing the reach of vacancy notices to attract a more diverse talent pool or the use of gender-sensitive wording in vacancy announcements to attract the attention of both women and men; asks the Commission and the Member States to take into account the importance of ensuring gender balance when nominating their members to the Institute's management board;
13. Notes that, according to the Institute's replies, there were no cases of harassment reported, investigated, concluded internally or taken before the courts in 2022; points out, however, that that does not automatically mean that there were no such cases, particularly because harassment might take various forms and remain unreported; calls on the Institute to continue its work in order to maintain the existing trend, while putting in place all relevant safeguards to ensure that no case remains unreported; commends the Institute for having organised in 2022, for both management and staff, training on the prevention of harassment; notes further that the Institute made use of its appointed external law firm to manage legally previous harassment cases; observes that the Institute does not have its own legal services unit or a post of legal advisor;
14. Notes that, in 2022, an ongoing case against company UAB Manpower Lit, instituted with the Vilnius City District Court at the beginning of 2018 by a number of formal interim workers, was finalised; recalls that the judgment of the Court of Justice of 11 November 2021<sup>3</sup> confirmed that Directive 2008/104/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>4</sup> applies to the decentralised agencies of the Union and confirmed the principle that interim workers and statutory members of staff be treated equally; notes that the Supreme Court of Lithuania upheld that ruling by the Court of Justice and ruled in favour of interim workers; welcomes the fact that the Institute no longer hires interim workers as of 1 January 2022;
15. Welcomes the Institute's comprehensive wellbeing policy, with a number of measures in place to support work-life balance, teleworking and a healthy lifestyle for its staff members; notes the Institute's sustained efforts to enhance the working environment in 2022 through a combination of respect and integrity, team spirit and cooperation across units to strengthen staff's understanding of and support for the Institute's zero tolerance on psychological and sexual harassment; further notes the Institute's measures to support staff such as extending the possibility for teleworking in the case of documented

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<sup>3</sup> Judgment of the Court (Second Chamber) of 11 November 2021, *UAB „Manpower Lit“ v E.S. and Others*, ECLI:EU:C:2021:624.

<sup>4</sup> Directive 2008/104/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on temporary agency work (OJ L 327, 5.12.2008, p. 9).

personal situations or reimbursing non-statutory staff for psychotherapeutic sessions;

### ***Procurement***

16. Notes with concern the observation from the Court's report regarding a framework contract, for which the payment by the Institute in 2022 of an amount of EUR 25 571,18 (out of a total of EUR 511 296 paid under that contract) for the cost category 'unforeseen expenditure' was found irregular due to the fact that that cost category was not included in the framework contract; welcomes the fact that the Institute has introduced a formal amendment to the framework contract defining the percentage of the budget for and the purpose of usage of unforeseen expenditure;
17. Notes another observation from the Court's report regarding the irregularity of the procedure and the resulting contract in connection with an audited negotiated procedure with at least three candidates, with a value below EUR 60 000; acknowledges, nevertheless, with regard to the latter observation that in 2022 no payments were made under that contract; calls on the Institute to address the shortcomings of its internal control deficiencies in the area of procurement;

### ***Prevention and management of conflicts of interests and transparency***

18. Notes the Institute's existing measures and ongoing efforts to secure transparency, the prevention and management of conflicts of interest and whistle-blower protection; notes in particular that the Institute prevents and manages conflicts of interest by raising awareness and by monitoring the validity of the declarations of interest signed by its management board, senior management and staff involved in recruitment and procurement procedures; further notes that the Institute updated its conflicts of interest policy in 2023 to take into account the recommendations on 'revolving doors' issued by the Court in its 2021 audit report on decentralised agencies of the Union and other relevant reports or studies issued by the discharge authority and the European Ombudsman; calls on the Court to include the Institute's new conflicts of interest policy in the Court's future audit plans;
19. Notes that the Institute published on its website the CVs and declarations of interests of its Director and management board members; recalls the importance of CVs and declarations of interests being published; calls on the Institute to publish its meetings with interest representatives without delay and provide the discharge authority with information on the webpage where such meetings are published;

### ***Internal control***

20. Welcomes the Institute's measures taken in 2022 to strengthen its internal control system; notes in that context that the Institute is on track with regard to the progress made in its internal control and audit related activities, such as the implementation of the recommendations or observations issued by the Court and the Internal Audit Service (IAS) in their audit reports from 2021 and the actions and measures set out in the Institute's 2021-2023 anti-fraud strategy; welcomes the fact that those actions and measures include the provision of fraud prevention training, awareness-raising through a dedicated anti-fraud intranet page and dedicated controls and fraud risk assessments;

21. Notes that the IAS performed a specific assessment of the Institute's internal control system in 2022; notes further the results of that assessment, in which four moderate deficiencies related to components I (the control environment), III (control activities) and IV (information and communication) and one major deficiency related to component III and the need for the improvement or significant improvement of various principles (4, 10, 11 and 13) were identified; calls on the Institute to report to the discharge authority on the progress made in addressing the IAS's findings;
22. Observes that a second independent external evaluation of the Institute was published in 2022; notes in that context that the Institute's management board has addressed to the Commission a letter with recommendations regarding the Institute's experts' forum, the functioning of the management board and staffing issues; understands from that letter that addressing those recommendations might require an amendment of Regulation (EC) No 1922/2006<sup>5</sup> that established the Institute; calls on the Commission to support the Institute in the follow-up analysis and discussions regarding the outcome of that external evaluation;
23. Commends the Institute for having taken the necessary actions with regard to the Court's observations from 2021, which have all been deemed closed by the Court;

#### ***Other***

24. Notes that the Institute signed in 2022 a new lease contract for its premises in Vilnius for a period of 10 years; further notes that the Brussels liaison office started its activities in 2022 and helped strengthen the visibility of the Institute as a stakeholder;
25. Welcomes the Institute's commitment to digitalise its procurement procedures through the onboarding of the Public Procurement Management Tool, expected to be completed in Q4 of 2023; notes that, according to the Institute's replies to the questions from Parliament's Committee on Budgetary Control, it updated its cybersecurity policy in 2022 to enhance security measures; recalls the importance of regularly updating arrangements for cybersecurity audits, tests and IT risk assessments;
26. Notes that the Institute has further increased its public visibility and online presence by launching or hosting several campaigns or events such as the #SafeSpaces campaign to show, *inter alia*, how cyber violence undermines the safety of women and girls; and the Institute's first Gender Equality Forum with forum sessions open to public via livestreaming and recordings;
27. Insists on the importance of its report on femicide published in 2022 entitled 'Femicide indicators: pilot study of data availability and feasibility assessment' and encourages the Institute to continue its campaign to raise the visibility of femicide in national policies and highlight the potential benefits of recognising it as a separate criminal offence;

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<sup>5</sup> Regulation (EC) No 1922/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 December 2006 on establishing a European Institute for Gender Equality (OJ L 403, 30.12.2006, p. 9).

28. Refers, for other observations of a cross-cutting nature accompanying its decision on discharge, to its resolution of [...] 2024<sup>6</sup> on the performance, financial management and control of the agencies.

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<sup>6</sup> Texts adopted, P9\_TA(2024)0000.

**ANNEX: ENTITIES OR PERSONS  
FROM WHOM THE RAPPORTEUR HAS RECEIVED INPUT**

The rapporteur declares under his exclusive responsibility that he did not receive input from any entity or person to be mentioned in this Annex pursuant to Article 8 of Annex I to the Rules of Procedure.

25.1.2024

## **OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY**

for the Committee on Budgetary Control

on the 2022 discharge: European Institute for Gender Equality  
(2023/2152(DEC))

Rapporteur for opinion: Robert Biedroń

### **SUGGESTIONS**

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

- A. whereas Article 8 TFEU states that in all its activities the Union shall aim to eliminate inequalities, establishing the principle of gender mainstreaming and to promote gender equality between men and women; whereas gender equality must be incorporated into all EU policies, including via gender budgeting at all levels of the budgetary process;
- B. whereas EIGE's staff are actively engaging in the exchange of best practices and the activities of the EU Agencies Network (EUAN) and its subnetworks, in order to develop its synergies such as human resources, building management, IT services and security, cooperation and exchange of good practices with other Union agencies with a view to improving efficiency; whereas EIGE has taken pro-active steps to apply ongoing measures for improving gender balance among its staff;
- C. whereas the 2023 Gender Equality Index demonstrates that Member States have made a modest increase of only 1.6 points to reach 70.2, and with some domains showing signs of regression, in particular in economic and income metrics<sup>1</sup>; whereas the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) was established in order to contribute to, and strengthen the promotion of, gender equality in the Union, including gender mainstreaming in all Union policies and the resulting national policies, the fight against discrimination based on gender, and raising Union citizens' awareness of gender equality;
- D. whereas there is an ever-growing urgency for the Union to advance on its Gender Equality Strategy, in the light of ongoing crises such as wars, the climate crisis, inflation, and the backlash against women's rights, especially sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in the Union and world-wide; whereas the current subsequent crises bear the risk of slowing down efforts to achieve gender equality and the risk of

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<sup>1</sup> <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-equality-index/2023>

hindering the full enjoyment of women's rights; whereas women in the EU are more severely affected by poverty or social exclusion than men; whereas their role as primary carers in the family puts a disproportionate amount of unpaid care and domestic work on women, who play an essential role in this regard; whereas the EU gender pay gap is 13 %, with variations between the Member States; whereas the gender pay gap has a number of implications, including a 29 % gap in pension entitlements, which places elderly women at greater risk of poverty and social exclusion; whereas the right to equal pay for equal work is not always upheld and remains one of the biggest challenges in efforts to overcome pay discrimination; whereas the importance of combating discrimination between men and women in access to employment and work, and promoting equality in careers and professional categories in vocational training is essential; whereas the Member States should increase public investment in policies that, directly or indirectly, aim to counteract the negative effects of the cost of living crisis on women in all their diversity, to guarantee access to high-quality, affordable public services for care, education, health, including sexual and reproductive health and rights, and housing, and to protect victims of gender-based violence;

- E. whereas the final budget of the European Institute for Gender Equality (“EIGE”) for the financial year 2022 was EUR 8,432,920, representing a decrease of 3 % compared to 2021 (EUR 8,693,358); whereas the entire budget of the Institute derives from the Union budget;
1. Recalls that EIGE was established in order to contribute to and strengthen the promotion of gender equality in the Union through providing quality research and comparable data, to help the European institutions and the Member States to mainstream gender equality in all their policies and combat gender-based discrimination; stresses therefore EIGE's crucial role in collecting, analysing, processing and disseminating data and necessary information for policy makers, the polices of the European Union and its respective Member States; welcomes in particular the Institute's continuous work on the Gender Equality Index and its low-threshold access to information for citizens; emphasises the need for stronger and more efficient integration of gender equality policies and gender mainstreaming tools; reiterates its repeated calls for further staffing resources, including statutory staff to be allocated to EIGE in the light of increasing urgent demands, technical assistance and requests for its services; calls, therefore for greater amounts to be allocated in the budget of the Institution in order to be able to enhance their recruitment and research capabilities to further enhance their work and output in view of subsequent crises and backlashes against gender equality and LGBTIQ+ persons which affect women disproportionately;
  2. Stresses the importance of combating inequalities and injustices against women; calls on the Commission and Member States to take urgent action to address poverty and increasing inequalities among women, especially among groups in vulnerable situations, including single mothers, women with disabilities, racialized women, LGBTIQ+ women, migrant women and refugees, elderly women, women in rural or scarcely populated areas; notes that this could be achieved by meeting the need for increased funding for gender equality actions in terms of employment and growth, as well as to combat gender-based violence and the pay gap between men and women, the pension pay gap between men and women, the impact of crises on women, gender mainstreaming and budgeting the increasing poverty rate among women, as well as in



terms of rights and democracy and the rule of law; welcomes to that end the ongoing cooperation between the EIGE and the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM); stresses the herculean efforts and the valuable contribution that the EIGE makes to ensuring the European Parliament's objectives, values and priorities; strongly supports the work of the Institute, which, by means of studies, research and high-quality data enables the Committee to properly do its work; notes the importance of availability of reliable gender-disaggregated data in order to allow for evidence-based policy making; notes the valuable contribution EIGE can make to all the European Parliaments' Committees and other EU agencies in order to better integrate gender mainstreaming in all EU policies;

3. Notes EIGE's continuous high level of budget execution, despite the persistent understaffing of the agency, with commitment appropriations of up to 97,91 % in 2022 (compared to 98,92 % in 2021), and a payment appropriations rate of 81,10 % (72,16 % in 2021);
4. Acknowledges the decrease in the EIGE's carry-over operating expenditure to 42,28 % in 2023 (54,79 % in 2022);
5. Notes that the European Court of Auditors confirmed EIGE's annual accounts present fairly, in all material respects, its financial position as at 31 December 2022 and the results of its operations, its cash flows and the changes in net assets for the year subsequently came to an end;
6. Is of the opinion on the basis of the data currently available that discharge shall be granted to the Director of the EIGE in respect of the implementation of its budget for the financial year 2022.

**ANNEX: ENTITIES OR PERSONS  
FROM WHOM THE RAPPORTEUR HAS RECEIVED INPUT**

The Chair in his capacity as rapporteur declares under his exclusive responsibility that he did not receive input from any entity or person to be mentioned in this Annex pursuant to Article 8 of Annex I to the Rules of Procedure.

## INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

<b>Date adopted</b>	24.1.2024
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 23 -: 4 0: 2
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Christine Anderson, Robert Biedroń, Vilija Blinkevičiūtė, Annika Bruna, Maria da Graça Carvalho, Margarita de la Pisa Carrión, Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield, Frances Fitzgerald, Livia Járóka, Arba Kokalari, Alice Kuhnke, Elżbieta Katarzyna Łukacijewska, Andželika Anna Mozdżanowska, Johan Nissinen, Carina Ohlsson, Samira Rafaela, Evelyn Regner, Diana Riba i Giner, Eugenia Rodríguez Palop, María Soraya Rodríguez Ramos, Maria Veronica Rossi, Sylwia Spurek, Marco Zullo
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Laura Ballarín Cereza, Sylvie Brunet, Marina Kaljurand, Eleni Stavrou
<b>Substitutes under Rule 209(7) present for the final vote</b>	Milan Brglez, Rainer Wieland

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

23	+
PPE	Maria da Graça Carvalho, Frances Fitzgerald, Arba Kokalari, Elzbieta Katarzyna Łukacijewska, Eleni Stavrou, Rainer Wieland
Renew	Sylvie Brunet, Samira Rafaela, María Soraya Rodríguez Ramos, Marco Zullo
S&D	Laura Ballarín Cereza, Robert Biedroń, Vilija Blinkevičiūtė, Milan Brglez, Marina Kaljurand, Carina Ohlsson, Evelyn Regner
The Left	Sandra Pereira, Eugenia Rodríguez Palop
Verts/ALE	Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield, Alice Kuhnke, Diana Riba i Giner, Sylwia Spurek

4	-
ECR	Johan Nissinen, Margarita de la Pisa Carrión
ID	Christine Anderson, Maria Veronica Rossi

2	0
ECR	Andželika Anna Mozdżanowska
NI	Livia Járóka

**Key to symbols:**

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention

## INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE

<b>Date adopted</b>	4.3.2024
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 20 -: 2 0: 0
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Dominique Bilde, Gilles Boyer, Olivier Chastel, Caterina Chinnici, Ilana Cicurel, Carlos Coelho, Daniel Freund, Isabel García Muñoz, Monika Hohlmeier, Joachim Kuhs, Petri Sarvamaa, François Thiollet
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Katalin Cseh, Bas Eickhout, Hannes Heide, Marian-Jean Marinescu, Sabrina Pignedoli, Wolfram Pirchner
<b>Substitutes under Rule 209(7) present for the final vote</b>	Malin Björk, Michael Gahler, César Luena, Miguel Urbán Crespo

## FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE

20	+
NI	Sabrina Pignedoli
PPE	Caterina Chinnici, Carlos Coelho, Michael Gahler, Monika Hohlmeier, Marian-Jean Marinescu, Wolfram Pirchner, Petri Sarvamaa
Renew	Gilles Boyer, Olivier Chastel, Ilana Cicurel, Katalin Cseh
S&D	Isabel García Muñoz, Hannes Heide, César Luena
The Left	Malin Björk, Miguel Urbán Crespo
Verts/ALE	Bas Eickhout, Daniel Freund, François Thiollet

2	-
ID	Dominique Bilde, Joachim Kuhs

0	0

**Key to symbols:**

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention