



2021/2170(INI)

4.3.2022

OPINION

of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

for the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

on women's poverty in Europe
(2021/2170(INI))

Rapporteur for opinion (*): Dragoș Pîslaru

(*) Associated committee – Rule 57 of the Rules of Procedure

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SUGGESTIONS

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

- A. whereas the eradication of poverty is one of the priorities of the EU, enshrined in Article 3 of the Treaty on European Union and in Article 34 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, and is a headline target in the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) action plan, reflecting the EU's commitment to combat poverty in its policies;
- B. whereas equality and non-discrimination are founding values of the European Union, as expressed in the Treaty on European Union and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union; whereas equality between men and women is an EU priority and is addressed at EU and national level in all policies; whereas in 2019, there were nearly 91.3 million persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion (AROPE) in the EU; whereas the EU did not reach its 2020 target to reduce AROPE by at least 20 million; whereas one of the new EU headline targets is to reduce AROPE by at least 15 million by 2030;
- C. whereas, according to Eurostat, the risk of poverty and social exclusion in the EU was higher for women than for men in 2020, affecting 51.4 million women (22.9 %) compared to 45 million men (20.9 %)¹; whereas this was primarily due to gender inequalities and discrimination, including in the labour market, experienced during the life course; whereas the poverty rate among working women could decrease if women were paid equally to men;
- D. whereas women from more vulnerable groups, such as young women, women with disabilities, women with a migrant background, Roma women, women from religious or ethnic minorities, as well as LBTQI+ women, face additional and intersecting forms of discrimination when accessing education, healthcare, employment and social services, and are therefore exposed to a higher risk of poverty;
- E. whereas gender mainstreaming is an important tool in the integration of gender equality into the EU's policies related to labour market and social policies, in order to promote equal opportunities and combat all forms of discrimination against women;
- F. whereas gender-sensitive data regarding poverty is still insufficient in the EU and the Member States, hindering the analysis and the policy-making processes at all levels;
- G. whereas, in relation to poverty data, the statistical household unit defines poverty within households, and does not consider the gender inequalities in the internal distribution of resources, making it difficult to obtain reliable gender-disaggregated data;
- H. whereas the COVID-19 crisis has exacerbated existing inequalities and has had a severe impact on labour income and wealth, has aggravated the situation of people

¹ Eurostat. Living conditions in Europe, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Living_conditions_in_Europe_-_poverty_and_social_exclusion&oldid=544210

experiencing poverty and is halting improvements in AROPE; whereas support measures, such as short-time work or similar schemes, have cushioned to some extent the negative effects of the crisis in the short run; whereas the burden of the pandemic will be disproportionately borne by low-wage earners, which will increase poverty and inequality across Europe; whereas the full economic, employment and social consequences of the pandemic are still unknown; whereas gender mainstreaming in all aspects of the response to the COVID-19 crisis has to be fully implemented in order to ensure gender equality and to support the recovery for the most vulnerable women;

- I. whereas the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated economic crisis have impacted women differently than men in the Union, and whereas its effects are jeopardising the progress made in the past few decades on the reduction of poverty and gender inequalities in the Member States; whereas according to the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), young women have been disproportionately hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, with employment decreasing by more than 10 % for young women, compared to 2.4 % overall; whereas the pandemic has disproportionately affected women in the socio-economic sphere, has deepened existing discrimination and resulted in even more inequalities between women and men in the labour market; whereas more women than men have lost their jobs owing to the COVID-19 pandemic²; whereas according to Eurofound, low-paid female workers have been hit most by employment losses during the COVID-19 pandemic and were more likely to be on furlough³; whereas young women aged 18-34 have been most likely to lose their job in the wake of the pandemic (11 %, compared to 9 % of young men)⁴; whereas more women than men have reduced their working hours to ensure continued care for children and to provide for family members in need; whereas the COVID-19 crisis has increased the amount of unpaid housework and childcare, which has fallen mostly on women, creating a double burden for working mothers; whereas women are more at risk of COVID-19 infection owing to their over-representation in essential frontline and more exposed occupations;
- J. whereas inequalities will continue to increase; whereas the medium-term impact of the crisis will depend on the degree of inclusiveness of the recovery; whereas social protection policies are vital elements of national development strategies to reduce poverty and vulnerability across the life cycle and to support inclusive and sustainable growth; whereas the recovery must include targeted strategies to support the most vulnerable and marginalised women in our societies in order to leave no one behind;
- K. whereas women are over-represented in non-standard forms of work, including part-time work, and often work in precarious, underpaid or undervalued sectors, among frontline workers in the sectors hardest-hit by the pandemic; whereas the largest growth in female employment over the last decade has occurred in female-dominated jobs and jobs held mainly by women already, including in the healthcare sector; whereas 76 % of the workforce in the health and care sectors is female⁵; whereas Eurofound research

² https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_813449/lang--en/index.htm
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/07/1096102>

³ Eurofound, *COVID-19: Implications for employment and working life*, COVID-19 series, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2021.

⁴ https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/sites/default/files/ef_publication/field_ef_document/ef20068en.pdf

⁵ <https://eige.europa.eu/covid-19-and-gender-equality/essential-workers>

shows that in spite of closing gender employment gaps, jobs are not becoming more gender mixed and that the share of EU employment in gender-mixed jobs (where neither gender's share is greater than 60 %) declined from 27 % to 18 % between 1998 and 2019⁶; whereas more women than men are in occupations that can be carried out remotely; whereas families are the cornerstone of our society, which requires a balance between professional and private life;

- L. whereas women are over-represented among the informal carers who gave up their employment and provide care to elderly relatives or relatives with disabilities; whereas in many Member States they do not receive adequate support from the authorities and social security systems and are therefore at greater risk of poverty and social exclusion;
- M. whereas pay discrimination in the EU, the unequal burden of unpaid care and domestic labour, discrimination in access to the labour market, low pay and low career prospects are barriers to achieving equal economic independence for women and men and can lead to higher risks of poverty and social exclusion for women, as well as higher gender pay and pension gaps; whereas poverty increases the risk of violence against women; whereas women faced with the risk of poverty are more vulnerable and violence increases the risk of social exclusion; whereas non-discriminative remuneration is an essential requisite for women; whereas women's economic empowerment is key to achieve gender equality and combat women's poverty;
- N. whereas the overall employment rate of women is almost 12 % lower than that of men and one third of women who are employed work part-time, compared to 8 % of working men; whereas a fifth of the women living in poverty are not active in the labour market owing to caring and domestic responsibilities⁷; whereas the participation of women in the labour market has grown in the last few decades but several gender gaps still exist; whereas fewer women are in full time employment than men (48 % of women compared to 64 % of men) and marginalised women are even more excluded from full-time employment⁸; whereas only 20.7 % of women with disabilities and 28.6 % of men with disabilities are in full-time employment;
- O. whereas in 2019, women's gross hourly earnings were on average 14.1 % below those of men in the EU⁹; whereas women constitute the majority of minimum wage earners in Europe¹⁰; whereas the main contributing factors to the gender pay gap are the sectoral segregation of women and men, the prevalence of women in part-time employment and the fact that they are less likely to have supervisory responsibilities than their male counterparts; whereas the gender pay gap ranged between 20 % and 5 % across the EU¹¹;

⁶ Eurofound and European Commission Joint Research Centre, *European Jobs Monitor 2021: Gender gaps and employment structure*, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2021.

⁷ EIGE report entitled 'Poverty, gender and intersecting inequalities in the EU: Review of the implementation of Area A: Women and Poverty of the Beijing Platform for Action', 2016.

⁸ <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-equality-index/2021/domain/work/disability>

⁹ https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Gender_pay_gap_statistics

¹⁰ Eurofound, *Understanding the gender pay gap: What difference do sector and occupation make?* Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2021; Eurofound, *Minimum wages in 2021: Annual review*, Minimum wages in the EU series, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2021.

¹¹ Eurofound, *Understanding the gender pay gap: What difference do sector and occupation make?*

- P. whereas women in the EU aged over 65 received a pension that was on average 29 % lower than that of men¹²; whereas according to Eurofound's research across the EU as a whole, between 2010 and 2019 the proportion of female pensioners aged over 65 who were at risk of poverty was around 3 to 4 percentage points higher than the rate for male pensioners; whereas poverty among those aged 75 and over is consistently concentrated among women, mainly as a result of the impact of gendered unpaid care duties, lifelong differences in pay and working time with the lower pensions that result, different retirement ages for men and women in some Member States, and the fact that more older women live alone; whereas effective actions are needed to close the gender employment, care, pay and pension gaps; whereas there is no country where gender equality has been fully achieved;
- Q. whereas women may be especially affected by economic inequalities as a result of income disparities between men and women, owing to the low proportion of highly paid women, and to the fact that women's income consists mainly of salaries and to a lesser extent capital income; whereas the risk of period poverty may also have a negative impact on the situation of women; whereas it is regrettable that female hygiene products and care products and services for children, elderly people or persons with disabilities, are still not considered as basic goods in all Member States;
- R. whereas Eurofound has highlighted the importance of policies that promote gender balance in paid and unpaid care work, including parental leave policies that increase male participation in unpaid care work, as well as the improvement of pay and working conditions in female-dominated sectors such as care provision;
- S. whereas gender equality in the labour market is an important instrument for eliminating poverty among women that benefits not only women but the economy as a whole, with a positive impact on GDP, employment levels and productivity; whereas improving gender equality would lead to an increase in EU GDP per capita of between 6.1 to 9.6 % and an additional 10.5 million jobs, which would benefit both women and men, by 2050¹³;
- T. whereas women's experience of homelessness is differentiated by gender; whereas women suffer homelessness and precarious housing as a result of discrimination, poverty and gender-based violence;
- U. whereas parental poverty often leads to child poverty; whereas investing in policies to support women also improves their families' living conditions, in particular those of their children; whereas the EU and the Member States must respect, protect and fulfil the rights of children in line with the Treaty on European Union; whereas the rights of children are jeopardised in situations of poverty; whereas eradicating child poverty is included in Principle 11 of the EPSR;
- V. whereas a significant section of the Roma population in Europe lives in extremely precarious conditions in both rural and urban areas, and in very poor socio-economic circumstances; whereas deep-rooted, permanent and structural anti-gypsyism, often

¹² <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/en/web/products-eurostat-news/-/ddn-20210203-1>

¹³ <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-mainstreaming/policy-areas/economic-and-financial-affairs/economic-benefits-gender-equality>

institutionalised and governmental, continues to exist at all levels of European society, forming a significant barrier in all areas of life, including housing, education, healthcare and employment, which leads to poverty; whereas poverty is inherited, forcing the communities in question to face intergenerational difficulties;

- W. whereas Roma people face discrimination in accessing employment initiatives such as the Youth Guarantee; whereas public employment services often lack the capacity to reach them or apply indirect discrimination practices;
- X. whereas the digital and green transitions require action to ensure that no one is left behind; whereas women are under-represented at all levels in the digital and science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) sectors in Europe and fewer women than men work in innovative technologies, such as artificial intelligence; whereas women account for only 34 % of STEM graduates and only 17 % of ICT specialists, while earning 19 % less than men in the information and communication sectors in Europe; whereas multiple gender gaps such as the so-called dream gap or the entitlement gap and a lack of women's representation in leadership positions can affect girls' career and education choices from an early age and therefore contribute to increasing inequality in certain sectors of the job market between men and women, in particular in STEM careers;
- Y. whereas women, especially those living in rural areas, often have limited access to the education, training and digital skills improvement programmes that are essential for both transitions, providing them with the opportunity to continue their professional life successfully; whereas education, vocational training and lifelong learning are of the utmost importance for all;
- 1. Calls for an overarching European anti-poverty strategy that integrates the gender perspective, with ambitious targets for reducing poverty and homelessness and eradicating extreme poverty in Europe by 2030, building on the headline targets set out in the EPSR action plan, especially among children, with coherent measurements and a focus on breaking the intergenerational cycle of poverty risks; calls on the Member States to fully implement the EPSR, with a special focus on the headline targets of a reduction of at least 15 million people at risk of poverty and social exclusion, of at least 78 % of the population aged 20-64 being in employment by 2030 and of at least 60 % of all adults participating in training every year; underlines that women's poverty is closely linked to child poverty, that single-parent households are at greater risk of poverty and social exclusion and that those households are more likely to be headed by women; stresses that the root causes of poverty and its impact on children's rights should be addressed in the strategy in order to ensure sustainable and long-lasting effects; calls for such a strategy to integrate an intersectional analysis and approach, and to set out targeted measures to support the most marginalised; underlines that low-income women, older women, women with disabilities, Roma women, women from religious or ethnic minorities, migrant women, young women, LGBTIQ+ women and single mothers encounter greater inequalities than those which exist for women in general; stresses that all women, including those from minority and vulnerable groups, should benefit from the objectives and actions of the strategy; highlights that the strategy should be in line with the EU's commitment towards Sustainable Development Goals 1, 5 and 10 and the 2030 Agenda;

2. Points out that, in order to prevent and tackle poverty among women, adequate national minimum income schemes are needed in all Member States as an integral part of an EU multidimensional, integrated anti-poverty strategy; takes note of the Commission's commitment to propose a Council recommendation on minimum income in 2022; calls on the Commission to issue guidelines in the upcoming recommendation to ensure there is no discrimination in minimum income schemes, where such schemes exist, in order to break the poverty cycle of vulnerable families; underlines the need for Member States' minimum income schemes to have a strong gender dimension to combat the feminisation of poverty and to guarantee a minimum income for those most at risk of exclusion; underlines the importance of minimum pensions and survivors' pensions to tackle social exclusion and poverty among older women; stresses the importance of addressing the need to ensure decent minimum pensions in the planned Council recommendation on minimum income in 2022; calls on the Member States to further break down data regarding old-age pensions by gender and different age groups;
3. Recalls that the proposal on adequate minimum wages aims to reduce in-work poverty, in particular for women; calls for the swift adoption of the proposed directive that will allow for a decent standard of living for workers and their families; highlights that, given the higher proportion of women in low-wage jobs and sectors, improvements in the adequacy of minimum wages can not only reduce in-work poverty, but can also support gender equality and reduce the gender pay gap; calls on the Member States to prioritise and examine more systematically the in-work poverty rate in relation to gender and specific groups, and calls for them to foster employment security, reduce wage inequalities and address involuntary part-time work, countering discrimination in pay rates, including closing the gender pay gap, in order to ensure that decent work is a sustainable route out of poverty;
4. Stresses the need for Member States to implement well-designed labour market policies that aim to eradicate the gender gaps that put women at greater risk of poverty, in particular the gender employment, pay and pension gaps; calls on the Member States, not least through the European Semester, to build inclusive labour markets, with pathway approaches for vulnerable groups to quality jobs and employment, and with decent wages and social protection; highlights that while progress has been made, there are still gender inequalities in the labour market that have to be tackled; calls on the Commission to implement and closely monitor the key objectives set out in the Gender Equality Strategy through concrete actions; stresses the role of the social partners in efforts to reduce the gender employment, pay and pension gaps; welcomes the proposal for a pay transparency directive, which aims to strengthen the principle of equal pay for equal work or work of equal value between men and women through pay transparency and enforcement mechanisms, thereby reducing the gender pay gap and improving women's financial stability and economic independence more generally, as well as enabling affected women to escape poverty and situations of domestic violence; calls on the Commission and the Member States to ensure that any such proposal covers as many workers as possible without discrimination; stresses that women's higher participation in the labour market should be focused on sustainable and quality employment, including in future-oriented sectors, in order to close the gender pay gap; stresses that the gender segregation of the labour market can undervalue feminised sectors and may lead to precarious working conditions for women in those sectors;

5. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to improve the opportunities for women in the labour market, to reduce the burden and responsibilities of women and actively support informal care providers, the majority of whom are women, by providing an adequate income for such carers, by increasing men's take-up of caring responsibilities, by ensuring accessible and high-quality formal public and private childcare, especially for children under the age of three, and high-quality care and services for persons in need of care and support, including older persons and persons with disabilities, and by providing psycho-social support or relief services to informal carers; calls on the Member States to adequately fund better and more affordable quality public and private services, as well as to support not-for-profit social services and other social infrastructures, and to ensure access to essential services for women, and, if needed, for their dependent children and other members of the immediate family who need care or support, especially for vulnerable groups, as this would allow more women to participate in the labour market and ensure work-life balance, and would also contribute to reducing the risk of women and their dependents falling into poverty; calls on the Commission and the Member States to ensure that the EU legislation on gender equality with a direct impact on women's participation in the labour market is implemented and its progress closely monitored;
6. Welcomes the Commission's commitment to present a revision of the Barcelona targets on early childhood education and care in 2022; urges the Member States to speed up the process of reaching the Barcelona targets everywhere in the EU to enable women's participation in the labour market, to prioritise the ambitious revision of the target of children under the age of three in childcare and to eliminate all discrimination in access to quality childcare by investing, while making use of the full potential of the European Child Guarantee and the relevant EU funds, in accessible and quality early childcare for all; recognises that efforts are needed to address the existing inequalities in access to quality early childhood education and care services; calls on the Member States to address the shortage of after school care and holiday childcare; calls on the Commission and the Council to develop similar targets for long-term care as part of the forthcoming European care strategy, including an initiative on long-term care in 2022, taking a comprehensive approach towards all care needs and services, and setting minimum standards and quality guidelines for care throughout the life cycle, to ensure sustainable long-term care that guarantees better access to quality services for those in need, as well as ensuring women's continued participation in the labour market and addressing unequal caring responsibilities; highlights, furthermore, the need to adopt measures to encourage men to enter caring careers; calls on the European Council to unblock the Women on Boards Directive; stresses that seeing women represented in leadership roles can affect girls' and young women's school and career choices and contribute to ending inequalities in certain sectors of the job market where women are less represented, as well as improving the working conditions of feminised sectors;
7. Notes that measures to incentivise the employment of women through the equal involvement of men in caring responsibilities, such as, for example, effective paternity leave schemes and addressing the tax provisions which penalise secondary earners who are predominantly women, can contribute directly or indirectly to lowering gender gaps both in employment and wages; calls on the Member States to encourage an equal share of caring responsibilities between women and men through non-transferable paid leave periods between the parents, which would allow women to increasingly engage in full-

time employment; calls on the Member States to ensure the rapid and ambitious implementation of the Work-Life Balance Directive;

8. Highlights that universal access to public, solidarity-based and adequate retirement and old-age pensions must be granted and accessible to all, particularly to women, as the average gender pension gap within the EU remains significant, standing at 29 % in 2019; underlines the importance of public and occupational pension systems that provide an adequate retirement income above the poverty threshold and allow pensioners to maintain their standard of living; calls on the Member States to consider factoring child-raising and other informal care responsibilities into pension schemes when women are not able to undertake paid work and make suitable contribution payments, including in the form of care credits, to address the fact that women are most often required to take career breaks to fulfil such responsibilities owing to entrenched gender roles; notes that the impact of the lifelong limited economic independence of women and gender inequalities in the labour market becomes most apparent among older age groups, especially if women are widowed or live alone; notes that the gender gap in poverty levels to the detriment of women is highest in the 75 and older age group, which is of particular concern given that women in the EU make up most of the ageing population;
9. Calls on the Member States to ensure equal economic opportunities for women during and after the COVID-19 crisis; stresses that the recovery efforts should take a gender-sensitive approach, invest in the care sector, boost quality jobs and sustainable growth, decent work, skills and training and the resilience and fairness of our societies, and should have a strong social dimension for all women, with an intersectional approach, to support women from more vulnerable groups, such as women in single or no-earner households, women with disabilities, Roma women, women from religious or ethnic minorities, single mothers, older women, migrant women, young women, LBTIQ+ women or women who care for dependents, as they are particularly at risk of falling into poverty and isolation; calls on the Member States to facilitate the formal recognition of the skills gained informally during periods of providing care, in order to improve the employability of women after their care duties end; underlines that while, overall, women encounter a higher likelihood of poverty throughout their life courses, the COVID-19 pandemic has increased this likelihood, as the lockdown measures to halt the pandemic have had a significant impact on the economic sectors (such as gastronomy, hospitality, retail, care, domestic work, etc.) in which women tend to be over-represented;
10. Notes that one of the areas in which women have been disproportionately affected vis-à-vis men is equal access to the economy, as women tend to be over-represented in Europe in the frontline of the pandemic and also in the services sector which has been particularly affected by the current crisis, and this has translated into an increase in female unemployment rates and thus a high likelihood of poverty for women in the EU;
11. Notes with concern that economic segregation and the disadvantages women face in entering and remaining on the labour market are translated into lower wages, vulnerable working conditions, lower pensions and a greater likelihood of suffering from poverty and social exclusion during the life course;

12. Calls on the Member States to promote flexibility for men, as well as for women, in terms of working hours and work organisation in order to promote the reconciliation of family life and work;
13. Underlines the need to promote policies that boost the economy, helping business owners to contribute to the growth of a labour market that creates decent jobs;
14. Stresses the crucial role of all European funds and programmes in the social area, particularly the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) and the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers, the Just Transition Fund, the Recovery and Resilience Facility and the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund; highlights that through the ESF+, Member States and the Commission should aim to mitigate the socio-economic impacts of the crisis, particularly on women, to increase the participation of women in employment as well the reconciliation of working and personal life, to combat the feminisation of poverty and gender discrimination in the labour market and in education and training, and to support the most vulnerable and combat child poverty; calls on the Member States to make full, effective and transparent use of these funds closest to the people who need them and therefore to consult and involve regional and local authorities in the application of the funds; further calls on the Member States to mainstream gender equality objectives throughout their national recovery and resilience plans and ensure that the most vulnerable groups of women are specifically targeted in the designing and planning of the national plans and in the implementation of funded projects; reminds the Member States that all EU-funded projects must comply with EU law, including the Charter of Fundamental Rights, as well as the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; echoes the Commission's prediction that, in the context of recovery from the COVID-19 outbreak, fighting against extreme poverty, and especially tackling child poverty, will become even more important in the coming years; consequently, insists that a total of at least EUR 20 billion be invested in the European Child Guarantee in the period 2021-2027; calls on the Member States to make full use of the ESF+, in particular the funds available to support the most deprived persons, in order to address the forms of extreme poverty with the greatest social exclusion impact, such as homelessness, child poverty and food deprivation;
15. Stresses that women not only disproportionately lost their jobs at the onset of the pandemic, but they also encountered greater obstacles to re-entering and remaining on the labour market in the period between the first two waves of the COVID-19 pandemic and, while employment prospects rose by 1.4 % for men, they merely increased by 0.8 % for women during the same period; stresses that young people, especially young women, lost disproportionately more jobs during the first wave of the pandemic; notes that previous crises have shown that entering the labour market during a recession can negatively affect young people's labour market outcomes for a decade or more;
16. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to encourage the labour market participation of women, while ensuring progressiveness in the tax system, eliminating tax-related gender biases and other inequalities, submitting specific, targeted and measurable initiatives within funding programmes, in line with the Commission's recommendation on Effective Active Support to Employment, and to promote women's empowerment through accessible and inclusive formal, non-formal and informal

education, vocational training and lifelong learning, with specific attention to be paid to the most marginalised, as well as access to finance, female entrepreneurship and women's representation in future-oriented sectors, with a view to ensuring access to high-quality employment and decent working and employment conditions across all age groups; calls on the Member States to implement policies that contribute to the skilling, up-skilling and re-skilling of women, especially with regard to the green and digital transitions; calls for the EU and the Member States to support women's access to quality lifelong learning and training, particularly after periods of absence for care reasons, taking strong measures to overcome the lack of time and resources as well as the digital gap; calls for greater promotion of STEM subjects, digital education, vocational training, lifelong learning, artificial intelligence and financial literacy as well as other cross-cutting skills at all education levels in order to ensure that more women enter future-oriented sectors and contribute to their development as well as to that of society more generally; calls on the Member States to use EU funds and programmes to support lifelong learning and training in the specific areas of new digital skills and capacities, including, in particular, STEM subjects; stresses that female entrepreneurship is of added value and should be supported and promoted;

17. Calls on the Member States to be ambitious in their implementation of the European Child Guarantee and the Pay Transparency Directive, as well as the future Directive on Minimum Wages and Recommendation on Minimum Income;
18. Emphasises that national efforts to ensure Roma inclusion should be accelerated in all Member States; calls on the Commission to promote inclusion and thereby ensure the participation of Roma girls and women at all levels, including those working at local, regional and EU level; points out that this should take into account equality between men and women and focus on the elevation of Member States' good practices to Union level;
19. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to supplement the EU's financial aid with study programmes and projects that give talented Roma girls and women the opportunity to use continuing education to free themselves from intergenerational poverty, promoting their social integration and developing their knowledge, with a view to improving the situation of the Roma; calls on the Member States to indicate the level of support they would need in order to implement the recommended measures to integrate the Roma population;
20. Recalls that narrow definitions of homelessness exclude women experiencing homelessness and housing exclusion, as they use informal and often unsafe arrangements, such as rough sleeping and emergency accommodation, and only try to access homelessness support services when those other options have been exhausted; points out that, as a result, women are not taken into account and are underestimated in the data on homelessness rates and therefore their experiences and needs are overlooked;
21. Points out that women are particularly exposed to the housing crisis; emphasises that women's homelessness is often less visible, and that it needs to be specifically addressed; calls on the Commission and the Member States to develop a gendered approach in their National Homelessness Strategies in order to support women

experiencing homelessness, who have often suffered complex trauma and face re-traumatisation, such as through domestic violence and abuse, separation from their children, stigmatisation and the lack of safe and secure spaces; calls on the Commission and the Member States to develop a gendered approach in their housing policies, particularly by supporting women who face specific situations such as single parenthood;

22. Welcomes the establishment of the European Platform on Combating Homelessness and its person-centred, housing-led and integrated approach; asks that it implement gender mainstreaming throughout its work, include women's rights organisations and carry out a study on the situation of homelessness affecting women in Europe;
23. Highlights that the European Green Deal and the Just Transition have to pay particular attention to energy poverty, increasing public investment in social, affordable and energy-efficient housing;
24. Underlines the gender dimension of energy poverty, which disproportionately affects single women, single-parent and female-headed households, as well as the need to pay attention to the specific situation of women when analysing the increasing risk of inequalities and poverty deriving from climate policies; points out the need to better take account of gender justice in the field of housing and urban renewal; reiterates its call on the Commission and the Member States to establish a definition of energy poverty which takes the gendered aspects of the phenomenon into account, as well as to ensure more ambitious action to tackle energy poverty¹⁴; calls, in this context, for the Member States to report on the gender dimension of energy poverty in their National Energy and Climate Plans;
25. Calls on the Member States to eliminate taxes on sanitary products, which disproportionately jeopardise the dignity of lower-income women; deeply regrets the fact that in spite of the proposed changes to VAT rules in 2018, a number of Member States have not reduced VAT rates for sanitary products;
26. Notes that all Member States have increased care packages during the pandemic and introduced special provisions for single-parent households; urges the Member States to extend such provisions during the recovery period;
27. Believes it to be important for gender policies to address the gender imbalance in both paid and unpaid care work, to increase women's participation in male-dominated sectors and to promote men's employment in female-dominated sectors, in order to address gender segregation in employment; emphasises that the persistence of gender-based job segregation suggests that more needs to be done via education and training systems and other incentives to encourage young men and women to engage in occupations identified with the other gender;
28. Regrets the fact that the current poverty data reveals only a part of the gender gap, as at-risk-of-poverty indicators are measured through household data which do not reveal the intra-household distribution of and access to resources; reiterates its calls on the Commission and the Member States to further develop and improve the collection of

¹⁴ European Parliament resolution of 26 May 2016 on poverty: a gender perspective, OJ C 76, 28.2.2018, p. 93.

gender-disaggregated data, statistics, research and analysis, as well as support for and measures to improve institutional and civil society organisations' capacity-building as regards data collection and analysis; calls in particular on the EU Energy Poverty Observatory to provide gender-disaggregated data in its publicly accessible set of indicators;

29. Recalls that social distancing and quarantine as a result of COVID-19 have had a dramatic impact on the number of cases of violence against women, including increased incidences of domestic violence and child abuse; recalls that women's economic independence has been proven to be a key tool for tackling gender-based violence; calls, therefore, on the Commission and the Member States to provide financial support for women victims of gender-based violence moving to independent living, and enhanced access to information on funding for affordable housing, as ways to improve their economic independence and standard of living.

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	3.3.2022
Result of final vote	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: flex-end; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: right; padding-right: 10px;">+:</div> <div>41</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: flex-end; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: right; padding-right: 10px;">-:</div> <div>8</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: flex-end; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: right; padding-right: 10px;">0:</div> <div>4</div> </div>
Members present for the final vote	<p>Atidzhe Alieva-Veli, Dominique Bilde, Gabriele Bischoff, Vilija Blinkevičiūtė, Milan Brglez, Sylvie Brunet, Jordi Cañas, David Casa, Leila Chaibi, Ilan De Basso, Margarita de la Pisa Carrión, Özlem Demirel, Jarosław Duda, Estrella Durá Ferrandis, Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová, Rosa Estaràs Ferragut, Nicolaus Fest, Loucas Fourlas, Cindy Franssen, Helmut Geuking, Elisabetta Gualmini, Alicia Homs Ginel, France Jamet, Agnes Jongerius, Radan Kanev, Adam Kósa, Stelios Kympouropoulos, Katrin Langensiepen, Miriam Lexmann, Elena Lizzi, Giuseppe Milazzo, Kira Marie Peter-Hansen, Dragoş Pişlaru, Manuel Pizarro, Dennis Radtke, Elżbieta Rafalska, Guido Reil, Daniela Rondinelli, Mounir Satouri, Monica Semedo, Michal Šimečka, Beata Szydło, Eugen Tomac, Romana Tomc, Marie-Pierre Vedrenne, Nikolaj Villumsen, Marianne Vind, Maria Walsh, Stefania Zambelli, Tatjana Ždanoka</p>
Substitutes present for the final vote	Evelyn Regner, Eugenia Rodríguez Palop, Sara Skyttedal

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

41	+
NI	Daniela Rondinelli
PPE	David Casa, Jarosław Duda, Rosa Estaràs Ferragut, Loucas Fourlas, Cindy Franssen, Helmut Geuking, Radan Kanev, Stelios Kypourouopoulos, Dennis Radtke, Sara Skytvedal, Eugen Tomac, Romana Tomc, Maria Walsh
Renew	Atidzhe Alieva-Veli, Sylvie Brunet, Jordi Cañas, Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová, Dragoş Pişlaru, Monica Semedo, Michal Šimečka, Marie-Pierre Vedrenne
S&D	Gabriele Bischoff, Vilija Blinkevičiūtė, Milan Brglez, Ilan De Basso, Estrella Durá Ferrandis, Elisabetta Gualmini, Alicia Homs Ginell, Agnes Jongerius, Manuel Pizarro, Evelyn Regner, Marianne Vind
The Left	Leila Chaibi, Özlem Demirel, Eugenia Rodríguez Palop, Nikolaj Villumsen
Verts/ALE	Katrin Langensiepen, Kira Marie Peter-Hansen, Mounir Satouri, Tatjana Ždanoka

8	-
ECR	Giuseppe Milazzo, Margarita de la Pisa Carrión, Elżbieta Rafalska, Beata Szydło
ID	Dominique Bilde, Nicolaus Fest, France Jamet, Guido Reil

4	0
ID	Elena Lizzi, Stefania Zambelli
NI	Ádám Kósa
PPE	Miriam Lexmann

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention