



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

2009/2002(BUD)

3.9.2009

OPINION

of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

for the Committee on Budgets

on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2010,
Section III - Commission
(C7-0300/2009 - 2009/2002(BUD))

Rapporteure: Edit Bauer

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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 in its motion for a resolution:

1. Stresses that the principle of gender mainstreaming, as enshrined in the Amsterdam Treaty, should be accepted in the economic and social recovery plans announced by the Commission, meaning not only that a gender equality perspective should apply to measures designed specifically to promote equal opportunities, but also that it should be incorporated in all policies and at all levels of the budgetary process by means of gender budgeting;
2. Calls on the Commission to set up a gender budgeting working group within its Directorate-General for Budget; also calls on the Commission to carry out a separate annual gender impact assessment of the EU budget to be presented as an annexed document; suggests that such an annex serve as a gender mainstreaming monitoring document, on which Parliament's Committee for Women's Rights and Gender Equality should deliver a report;
3. With a view to the mid-term evaluation of many multiannual programmes foreseen for 2010, asks the Commission to develop a monitoring and evaluation system that shows the effect on men and women of various budget lines in terms of the implementation of the principle of gender equality;
4. While still awaiting the study on the feasibility of gender budgeting, reiterates the call for the use of the gender budgeting approach in assessing and restructuring all relevant budget programmes, measures and policies, in determining to what extent resources are allocated in gender equal or unequal ways and ultimately in achieving gender neutrality, whereby equal consideration is given regardless of gender;
5. Calls for more financial resources to be made available to combat all forms of discrimination against women, in particular inequalities regarding pay;
6. Regrets that the communications budget has no instruments enabling DG Communications to give a general budgetary focus to gender questions; stresses the importance and role of EU communications policy in increasing awareness of gender issues and calls for adequate financial resources to be made available for measures of this kind;
7. Calls for greater emphasis to be placed on the reconciliation of family and working life in the preparation of the preliminary draft budget with a view to facing demographic challenges and meeting the Lisbon targets on employment of women, to enable them to fully enjoy all their rights and, in particular, to combat wage discrimination;
8. Points out that the gender aspect of the economic downturn cannot be excluded any longer, demands that the Council and the Commission assess all projects and programmes concerning the credit crunch and the economic crisis, in particular the European

Economic Recovery Plan, in terms of their separate effects on women and men, including legislation, policies and programmes, in all areas and at all levels, so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated;

9. Stresses the need to launch pilot projects in fields such as inter-generational solidarity, recognising the economic value of work done by carers, who are mainly women, the contribution made by men to child-rearing, the reconciliation of family and working life, etc.;
10. Calls for greater financial resources to be allocated to the combating of violence against women and stresses the need for effective measures to safeguard human rights and promote high-quality public services and employment rights, so as to combat social inequalities and the poverty which mainly affects women and children;
11. Considers that special attention should be paid to trafficking in human beings, in particular women, adolescents and children, when examining strengthening of internal and international security, and reaffirms the need to provide greater support for the victims of this practice;
12. Calls for the maintenance of budget lines to develop policies to assist persons suffering from 'DYS' problems (dysphasia, dyspraxia, dyslexia, dyscalculia, attention deficit disorder, etc.) and people with disabilities, particularly as regards better support for parents whose children suffer from disabilities and 'DYS' problems, and to assist the transition from school to working life for persons with 'DYS' problems and disabilities;
13. Calls on the Commission to urge the Member States to make greater use of structural funds, within the framework of the European Social Fund, as a way of promoting equality between men and women;
14. Welcomes the Commission's intention to continue to provide aid in particular to Kosovo, the Middle East, with special emphasis on Palestine, Afghanistan and Georgia; asks the Commission, however, to take into account the necessity of women's participation in establishing and maintaining peace and in securing democracy; stresses, therefore, the importance of ensuring the reinsertion and participation of women in the restoration of social, economic and political life in those areas;
15. Demands that the European Commission Humanitarian Aid (ECHO) prioritise aid and financial assistance for women victims of gender-based violence perpetrated during conflicts;
16. Calls on the Commission to launch a multi-annual European media campaign on the subject 'Do you know where your child is now?', in close cooperation with civil society organisations, so as to promote greater awareness as regards parental responsibility, greater protection of children against all forms of violence and combating trafficking in children more effectively;
17. Ask the Commission to promote and monitor Member States' best practices in the field of carers and to communicate those best practices to all Member States, in order to show that carers play a central role in the field of intergenerational solidarity and to encourage the

implementation of strategy relating to carers in all Member States;

18. Urges the Commission, as part of the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion 2010, to give priority to funding projects which place the emphasis on genuine partnerships with the poorest, in particular on the role of the poorest women (drawing on the extensive experience of the International Movement ATD Fourth World, which has received political and financial support from the Commission and the Economic and Social Committee), to support the activities organised to mark the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on 17 October and to give priority to funding projects seeking to promote the right to education, particularly for girls;
19. Calls on the European Union to strive determinedly to eliminate all forms of discrimination against girls and to allocate adequate resources to combat the inequalities deriving there from;
20. Calls on the Commission to earmark budget appropriations for studies into the development of measures designed to highlight the value of invisible work in the field of inter-generational solidarity and the contribution it makes to the Union's GDP;
21. Calls on the Commission to earmark appropriations for specific initiatives to validate the skills acquired in carrying out educational tasks, caring for dependent persons and household management so that these skills are taken into consideration upon re-entry into the labour market; points out that soft skill assessment is central to skill assessment according to the best traditions of national experimentation with systems to make demand for labour intersect with the labour supply.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	1.9.2009
Result of final vote	+: 26 -: 1 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Regina Bastos, Edit Bauer, Emine Bozkurt, Marije Cornelissen, Silvia Costa, Tadeusz Cymański, Edite Estrela, Ilda Figueiredo, Iratxe García Pérez, Mary Honeyball, Teresa Jimenez-Becerril Barrio, Philippe Juvin, Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou, Astrid Lulling, Barbara Matera, Siiri Oviir, Antonia Parvanova, Raúl Romeva i Rueda, Nicole Sinclair, Eva-Britt Svensson, Britta Thomsen, Marina Yannakoudakis, Anna Záborská
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, Sylvie Guillaume, Nicole Kiil-Nielsen, Doris Pack, Joanna Senyszyn
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Danuta Jazłowiecka