



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

2011/0177(APP)

20.9.2012

OPINION

of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

for the Committee on Budgets

on the interim report in the interests of achieving a positive outcome of the
Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020 approval procedure
(COM(2011)0398 – 2011/0177(APP))

Rapporteur: Inês Cristina Zuber

PA_NonLEG_InterimMod

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 report:

Citations and/or recitals

- having regard to Article 2 and Article 3(3), second subparagraph, of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) and to Article 8 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU),
- having regard to Article 23 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union,
- A. whereas the Commission's approach regarding the gender equality aspects of the next MFF aims at greater flexibility in answering the upcoming challenges facing women, but the failure to earmark concrete funds risks resulting in decreased funding compared to the current MFF;
- B. whereas the strategy for equality between men and women 2010-2015 asserts that the next Multiannual Financial Framework will provide support for implementation of the actions envisaged in the strategy;
- C. whereas the current proposal for MFF 2014-2020 does not reflect the importance of increasing investment in gender equality and women's rights, inter alia as a necessary response to the current economic and financial crisis;

Recommendations

- (i) Stresses that gender equality mainstreaming and specific resource allocation must go hand in hand, and that, therefore, specific resource allocation cannot be replaced by horizontal objectives; calls for a double approach which will ensure efficiency and predictability and will be the rule in all key financing instruments; emphasises the need for stronger and more efficient integration of gender equality policies and gender mainstreaming tools during the next programming period;
- (ii) Calls on the Commission and Council to apply gender-responsive budgeting processes in MFF 2014-2020; stresses that the MFF Regulation should include instructions to the Commission to apply gender budgeting in the EU budgetary process and the use of the different financing instruments;
- (iii) Points out that the MFF should provide a gender analysis of its budget priorities, as well as a breakdown of any budgetary provision for gender-specific policies and programmes;
- (iv) Stresses the need for increased funding for gender equality actions, in terms of employment and growth in order to tackle horizontal and vertical gender segregation

and to combat the gender pay gap and pension pay gap and the increasing poverty rate among women, as well as in terms of rights and democracy; calls on the Commission and Council to establish gender equality as a specific objective in the Rights and Citizenship programme, as well as safeguarding the Daphne programme as an independent subheading in this same programme;

- (v) Calls on the Commission and Council to include gender equality objectives within the regulations governing the Structural Funds, as well as within key EU funding programmes (health and environment, education, youth, economy, etc), and to ensure they are accompanied by earmarked funding; advocates a more strategic application of the ESF for promoting equality between women and men, labour market access and reintegration and combating unemployment, poverty, social exclusion and all forms of discrimination; calls on the Commission to come up with proactive measures through the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, in order to support women's employment in rural areas;
- (vi) Calls on the Commission and Council to ensure continued earmarked funding for the European Institute for Gender Equality, without any decrease, in order to allow the Institute to become fully operational and provide statistics and research on gender policy in the EU to Member States and the rotating Presidencies of the Council of the European Union;
- (vii) Stresses that the Commission's strategy for equality between women and men 2010-2015 and the strategy for the following five years after 2015, as well as the annual reports on gender equality should serve as a fundamental indication as regards in what areas and how the spending should be targeted, taking into account in particular the high risk of poverty and social exclusion of the most vulnerable categories, such as elderly women and single mothers;
- (viii) Notes that the creation of large-scale funding programmes will prevent smaller NGOs, including women's organisations, from benefiting from EU project funding and thus impede their unique contribution to improving the quality of policy and legislation in the field of gender equality; calls for the continuation of smaller grants alongside the bigger grants, in order to ensure that smaller NGOs will continue to have access to EU funding in the future;
- (ix) Calls on the Commission and Council to ensure that all budgetary allocations under the MFF 2014-2020 will respect the principle of gender equality and promote gender mainstreaming in all Union policies;
- (x) Points out that gender equality needs to be much more clearly stated as an objective and to be coupled with earmarked funding in all EU external actions and programmes;
- (xi) Underlines the importance of gender budgeting as a good governance tool to improve efficiency and fairness, proper monitoring of how budgetary allocations affect the economic and social opportunities of women and men, and flexibility as regards restructuring those which negatively affect the achievement of gender equality; believes that a substantial analysis of gender issues in the EU budget planning process will

improve the targeting of resources in such a way that equality and social cohesion are enhanced.

Modifications

Modification 1

Amended proposal for a Council Regulation laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020
Recital 14 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Modification

(14a) The annual budgetary procedures applied for the MFF 2014-2020 will integrate gender-responsive elements, taking into account the ways in which the overall financial framework of the Union contributes to increased gender equality (and ensures gender mainstreaming).

Modification 2

Amended proposal for a Council Regulation laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020
Article 12 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Modification

The European Parliament, the Council and the Commission (hereinafter the institutions) shall take any measures to facilitate the annual budgetary procedure.

The European Parliament, the Council and the Commission (hereinafter the institutions) shall take any measures to facilitate the annual budgetary procedure, ***and ensure a gender-responsive budgeting process at all its stages.***

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	19.9.2012
Result of final vote	+: 26 -: 0 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Regina Bastos, Marije Cornelissen, Edite Estrela, Iratxe García Pérez, Mikael Gustafsson, Mary Honeyball, Lívia Járóka, Teresa Jiménez-Becerril Barrio, Nicole Kiil-Nielsen, Silvana Koch-Mehrin, Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou, Astrid Lulling, Barbara Matera, Krisztina Morvai, Norica Nicolai, Joanna Senyszyn, Joanna Katarzyna Skrzydlewska, Britta Thomsen, Anna Záborská, Inês Cristina Zuber
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Silvia Costa, Mariya Gabriel, Ana Miranda, Doris Pack, Antigoni Papadopoulou, Angelika Werthmann