



**2019/2055(DEC)**

22.1.2020

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

for the Committee on Budgetary Control

on discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2018, Section III – Commission and executive agencies  
(2019/2055(DEC))

Rapporteur for opinion: Frances Fitzgerald

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## 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 gender equality is one of the values on which the European Union is founded and the Union is committed to promote gender mainstreaming in all of its actions as enshrined in Article 8 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU);
  - B. whereas the European Parliament has repeatedly asked the Commission to promote and implement the use of gender mainstreaming, gender budgeting and gender impact assessments in all the Union policy areas and the Court of Auditors to incorporate a gender perspective, including gender-disaggregated data, into its reports on the implementation of the Union budget;
  - C. Whereas equality and the rule of law are founding values of the Union and the European institutions shall aim to promote them according to Article 13 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU); whereas this responsibility should be also shared by member states according to the principle of sincere cooperation enshrined in Article 4(3) TEU;
1. Stresses that women's rights and a gender equality perspective should be integrated and ensured into all policy areas; reiterates therefore its call for the implementation of gender budgeting at all stages of the budgetary process, including the implementation of the budget and assessment of its implementation;
  2. Calls on the Commission to continue its efforts to strengthen the rule of law in the Union, in particular those legal proposals aimed at protecting the Union budget in case of generalised deficiencies as regards the rule of law in member states. As such, calls on the Commission to explore the core mission of those to whom Union funds are granted; to withhold funding from any group who seeks to use Union funds for the purposes of rolling back rights, particularly women's rights;
  3. Notes that gender budgeting is part of an overall strategy on gender equality and stresses, therefore, that the commitment of Union institutions on that area is fundamental; regrets in this context that no Union gender equality strategy 2016-2020 was adopted and calls on the Commission to enhance the status of its new Strategic engagement for gender equality by adopting it as a Communication;
  4. Expresses its concern at the interrelation between the attacks on the rule of law and the backlash on gender equality and women's rights; calls for this issue to be addressed through the Article 7 procedure against those Member States concerned.
  5. Repeats its demand that the budget lines under the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (REC) 2014 - 2020 should specify the resources allocated to each of the objectives of the programme devoted to gender equality ensuring a proper accountability of the funds devoted to this aim;
  6. Regrets the tendency of the last years to cut Union funds for combating all forms of

violence against women and girls and reaffirms its request to increase resources for the Daphne specific objective; reiterates its call to have a separate budget line for the Daphne specific objective of REC; it takes note of the evolution of the development of an Union-wide survey, with a common methodology and questionnaire, to gather comparable gender-based violence data, on a regular basis, across the Member States; it expects to acknowledge the first outcomes of the pilot exercise of the survey by 2019 in order to comply with the foreseen implementation of the survey from 2020-2021 onwards;

7. Calls for the examination of synergies between those internal and external programmes of the Union to ensure a coherent and continuous approach to policies both inside and outside of the Union, such as in the case of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).
8. Calls for increased transparency, targeted actions and specific budget lines in order to meeting the goals of gender equality and women's rights in Union external action, including sexual and reproductive health and rights;
9. Calls for gender impact assessments as part of general ex-ante conditionality for Union funds;
10. Recalls that a very significant number of refugees and asylum seekers entering the Union are women and children; highlights that gender mainstreaming is also among the founding principles of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and reiterates its call for the gender dimension to also be taken into account in migration and asylum policies by allocating specific funds dedicated to prevent gender-based violence and ensuring access to health and reproductive health and rights;
11. Calls for a renewed commitment by the Parliament, the Council and the Commission to gender equality in the next MFF by including a gender budgeting clause and a gender responsive review in the new MFF Regulation; regrets that, in spite of the joint declaration having been attached to the MFF on gender mainstreaming, there has been little progress in this field and no clear gender equality strategy with specific objectives, concrete targets and allocations, has emerged from the MFF 2014-2020;
12. Highlights the need to make a greater effort in the integration of the gender perspective in the fields of research and integration; in this sense it welcomes the fact that, up to January 2019 the share of women participants in Horizon 2020 projects was 42% of the total workforce; by contrast, it regrets the fact that women only represented 28 % of projects coordinators and only 32.4 % of grants took into account the gender dimension in the research and innovation content ; also calls for the inclusion of targeted actions on women's rights and gender equality with specific budget lines in order to take into account the gender dimension within migration and asylum policies ;
13. Calls on the Commission to employ gender budgeting through the entire budgetary procedure, the implementation of the budget and the assessment of its execution in order to promote equal access to Union funded programmes and to encourage women's participation;
14. Calls for the collection of data disaggregated by gender on beneficiaries and participants of Union funded programmes; reiterates its demand to include in the common set of

result indicators for the implementation of the Union budget also gender-specific indicators based on a greater focus on the equality, equity and ecology principle, with due regards to the principle of sound financial management, namely in accordance with the principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness;

15. Deplores the fact that the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) does not include a gender perspective due to the lack of specific data regarding the gender of applications submitted and/or approved for EFSI funding.

## INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

<b>Date adopted</b>	22.1.2020
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 19 -: 5 0: 1
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Annika Bruna, Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield, Belinda De Lucy, Frances Fitzgerald, Heléne Fritzon, Alice Kuhnke, Elżbieta Katarzyna Łukacijewska, Karen Melchior, Sandra Pereira, Sirpa Pietikäinen, Samira Rafaela, Evelyn Regner, Eugenia Rodríguez Palop, María Soraya Rodríguez Ramos, Christine Schneider, Irène Tolleret, Isabella Tovaglieri, Ernest Urtasun
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Maria da Graça Carvalho, Nicolaus Fest, Lina Gálvez Muñoz, Marina Kaljurand, Predrag Fred Matić, Alessandra Moretti, Jadwiga Wiśniewska

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

19	+
GUE/NGL	Eugenia Rodríguez Palop
PPE	Maria da Graça Carvalho, Frances Fitzgerald, Elżbieta Katarzyna Łukacijewska, Sirpa Pietikäinen, Christine Schneider
RENEW	Karen Melchior, Samira Rafaela, María Soraya Rodríguez Ramos, Irène Tolleret
S&D	Helène Fritzon, Lina Gálvez Muñoz, Marina Kaljurand, Predrag Fred Matić, Alessandra Moretti, Evelyn Regner
VERTS/ALE	Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield, Alice Kuhnke, Ernest Urtasun

5	-
ECR	Jadwiga Wiśniewska
ID	Annika Bruna, Nicolaus Fest, Isabella Tovaglieri
NI	Belinda De Lucy

1	0
GUE/NGL	Sandra Pereira

### Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention