



2020/2173(DEC)

26.2.2021

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 budget of the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) for the financial year 2019:
(2020/2173(DEC))

Rapporteur for opinion: Robert Biedroń

PA_NonLeg

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, according to Article 8 TFEU, the Union is to aim to eliminate inequalities, and to promote equality, between men and women, thereby promoting the principle of gender mainstreaming in all of its policies, including via gender budgeting at all levels of the budgetary process;
 - B. whereas the Commission and European Court of Auditors (ECA) should ensure the principle of gender mainstreaming throughout the Union's budgetary and legislative processes;
 - C. whereas women are disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 and by the measures designed to tackle the pandemic, particularly women facing multiple discriminations, women working in precarious employment, in feminised sectors and the informal economy; whereas these impacts range from a worrying increase in gender-based violence and harassment, unpaid and unequal care and domestic responsibilities, through restricted access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), to significant economic and work impacts for women, particularly healthcare workers and caregivers;
 - D. whereas, taking into account that workers, particularly women workers, are going through a difficult time in which their working hours are being completely deregulated, largely as a result of teleworking, the European Institute for Gender Equality should push for specific measures and initiatives to support, develop and foster a balance between personal, family and professional life as a decisive factor in the effective promotion of gender equality;
- 1. Recalls that 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;
 - 2. Stresses EIGE's central role in collecting, analysing, processing and disseminating data and information as regards gender equality and to develop, analyse, evaluate and disseminate methodological tools in order to support the integration of gender equality into all Union policies and the resulting national policies; encourages collaboration between EIGE and other European Union agencies such as the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, whilst calling on the Commission to respect the specific mission of EIGE and refrain from the possibility of merging EIGE with other agencies;
 - 3. Welcomes the ongoing cooperation between the EIGE and the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM), in particular the Institute's contribution to the ongoing efforts of the Committee concerning the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on women, gender-based violence, work-life balance, equal pay and pension gap, gender budgeting and the development of a gender-sensitive parliament tool, 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; stresses the valuable contribution that EIGE can make to all committees in order to better integrate the gender perspective in all EU policies and encourages the European Parliament to establish an ever closer cooperation;

4. Welcomes the work of EIGE during 2019, in particular its analysis on gender equality in parliaments across the EU and the European Parliament;
5. Welcomes the Institute's continuous work on the Gender Equality Index;
6. Notes the EIGE's continuous high level of budget execution, with commitment appropriations of up to 98,96 % in 2019 (compared to 99,38 % in 2018), as well as slightly improved payment appropriations of 82,50 % (81,15 % in 2018);
7. Acknowledges a decrease in the EIGE's carry-over operating expenditure to 28,01% in 2019 (compared to 51,29% in 2016); notes that for the first time the carry forward is below the ECA's target threshold of 30%;
8. Raises concerns over claims of former temporary agency workers concerning their rights; notes that the Lithuanian Supreme Court asked the CJEU to assess whether the Directive 2008/104/EC on temporary agency work applies to EU Agencies in their capacity as public bodies engaged in economic activities and whether they must apply in full with the provisions of Article 5(1) of that Directive, which concern the rights of temporary agency workers to basic working and employment conditions, in particular as regards pay;
9. Notes that the ECA confirmed that the EIGE's annual accounts present fairly, in all material respects, its financial position as at 31 December 2019 and the results of its operations, its cash flows and the changes in net assets for the year then ended in accordance with the provisions of its Financial Regulation and the accounting rules adopted by the Commission's accounting officer; notes that, according to the Court, the revenue and payments underlying the EIGE's annual accounts for the year ended 31 December 2019 are legal and regular in all material respects;
10. Raises concerns over irregularities found by the ECA regarding the EIGE's selection of external experts, i.e. that the procedures used for selecting and contracting the external experts systematically lacked a solid audit trail; recalls that the Institute must comply with the principles of non-discrimination and equal treatment set out in Article 237 of Financial Regulation; takes note of EIGE's commitment to apply improved procedures in new calls for expression of interest;
11. Supports the work of the EIGE as providing an important input for the gender equality support in the work of the European Commission, the Member States and the European Parliament through its relevant studies and research;
12. Welcomes the EIGE 2021-2023 Single Programming Document and its key objectives and priorities;
13. Calls for additional and adequate funding to be allocated to EIGE in order to increase the number and the quality of its statutory workers and to enhance the Institute's

capacities in terms of research, data collection and analysis;

14. Is of the opinion, on the basis of the data currently available, that discharge can be granted to the Director of the EIGE in respect of the implementation of its budget for the financial year 2019.

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	25.2.2021
Result of final vote	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> +: 25 </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> –: 6 </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> 0: 0 </div>
Members present for the final vote	<p>Simona Baldassarre, Robert Biedroń, Annika Bruna, Margarita de la Pisa Carrión, Rosa Estaràs Ferragut, Frances Fitzgerald, Cindy Franssen, Heléne Fritzon, Lina Gálvez Muñoz, Livia Járóka, Arba Kokalari, Alice Kuhnke, Elżbieta Katarzyna Łukacijewska, Karen Melchior, Andżelika Anna Możdżanowska, Maria Noichl, Pina Picierno, Sirpa Pietikäinen, Samira Rafaela, Evelyn Regner, Diana Riba i Giner, Eugenia Rodríguez Palop, María Soraya Rodríguez Ramos, Christine Schneider, Sylwia Spurek, Jessica Stegrud, Isabella Tovaglieri, Ernest Urtasun, Hilde Vautmans, Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi, Chrysoula Zacharopoulou</p>

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

25	+
PPE	Rosa Estaràs Ferragut, Frances Fitzgerald, Cindy Franssen, Lívia Járóka, Arba Kokalari, Elżbieta Katarzyna Łukacijewska, Sirpa Pietikäinen, Christine Schneider, Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi
Renew	Karen Melchior, Samira Rafaela, María Soraya Rodríguez Ramos, Hilde Vautmans, Chrysoula Zacharopoulou
S&D	Robert Biedroń, Helène Fritzton, Lina Gálvez Muñoz, Maria Noichl, Pina Picierno, Evelyn Regner
The Left	Eugenia Rodríguez Palop
Verts/ALE	Alice Kuhnke, Diana Riba i Giner, Sylwia Spurek, Ernest Urtasun

6	-
ECR	Margarita de la Pisa Carrión, Andżelika Anna Moźdzanowska, Jessica Stegrud
ID	Simona Baldassarre, Annika Bruna, Isabella Tovaglieri

0	0

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention