



2020/2140(DEC)

25.2.2021

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 general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2019, Section III – Commission and executive agencies
(2020/2140(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 gender equality is one of the core values on which the European Union is founded and an horizontal principle on which it is committed to eliminate inequalities, promote gender equality and gender mainstreaming in all of its actions as enshrined in Article 8 TFEU;
 - B. whereas this 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 European Court of Auditors (ECA) 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 in particular through the promotion of best practices in other areas;
 - D. whereas women are disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly women working in precarious employment, feminised sectors and the informal economy; considering the need for strengthening cohesion funds to safeguard women's economic and social rights, combating the feminization of poverty, investing in high quality public care services, fighting all forms of violence against women, safeguarding sexual and reproductive health services and striving for equal opportunities as a precondition for promoting prosperity, competitiveness, employment, inclusiveness and social cohesion;
- 1. Stresses that women's rights and a gender equality perspective should be integrated and ensured into all policy areas, particularly in light of the multiple gendered impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on women's rights; reiterates therefore its call for the implementation of gender mainstreaming at all stages of the budgetary process, including the implementation of gender budgeting and the assessment of its execution; reiterates its demand to include gender-specific indicators in the common set of result indicators for the implementation of the EU budget;
 - 2. Is concerned that in its internal spending review of the current Union programmes, the ECA found that gender equality had not been mainstreamed across the Union budget in the same way as climate change or biodiversity and that instead, specific programmes, mainly those tackling employment and social issues, had been used to address discrimination based on gender; regrets that there is no methodology in place to track the spending dedicated to gender equality; welcomes the Court's decision to examine gender mainstreaming in the Union budget and to publish the audit report in the first

quarter of 2021¹ ;

3. Welcomes the fact that gender equality and mainstreaming has been introduced as one of the horizontal principles for Union funds in the new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2021-2027, stipulating that gender equality and gender mainstreaming will now be prioritised in the MFF; regrets that although gender mainstreaming was already included in a joint declaration attached to the MFF for 2014-2020, it was not fully implemented in the MFF for this period; expects the Commission to take its commitments seriously in the future by closely monitoring the implementation of these horizontal principles in all of the EU policy areas and providing thorough gender impact assessments and monitoring of all of its policies and programmes;
4. Welcomes the results in key action areas of gender equality such as gender based violence through the dedicated programmes, as well as the outcome and conclusion of the MFF negotiations on the citizenship, equality, rights and values programme;
5. Welcomes the commitment to develop a methodology to track spending on gender equality and requests the Commission to ensure that the methodology will be designed by the end of 2021 to make it operative as soon as possible;
6. Calls for the examination of synergies between internal and external programmes of the Union to ensure a coherent and continuous approach to policies both inside and outside of the Union, especially for instance to issues related to the violence against women or to the combat against trafficking in human beings;
7. Calls on the Commission to continue its efforts to strengthen the rule of law and respect for fundamental rights in the Union; welcomes the fact that the new MFF includes the rule of law conditionality for access to the Union funds; calls on the Commission to strictly apply this conditionality and effectively protect the Union's budget in the event of generalised deficiencies in upholding the rule of law, breaches of human rights and violations of the fundamental values of the European Union;
8. 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 Member States concerned;
9. Strongly reiterates its demand to increase resources dedicated to preventing and combating gender-based violence under the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values, especially following the escalation of violence against women during the COVID-19 crisis; reiterates its request for an independent budget line for all measures specifically targeting gender equality, including on gender-based violence, which will be a first step to increase transparency, facilitate the tracking of gender related spending and have an open decision-making process on the funds allocated to gender equality in which the Parliament should play a fundamental role in its capacity as budgetary authority;
10. Stresses a need to further increase resources in European Social Fund Plus (EFS+) to allow inclusion in the labour market and adapted training, as the COVID-19 crisis affected women's employment disproportionately, in particular women working in the

¹ https://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECADocuments/INAP20_03/INAP_Gender_equality_EN.pdf

informal economy and in precarious working conditions, and in some heavily impacted and highly feminised sectors.

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;"> –: 4 </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> 0: 2 </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 Fritzon, 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

4	-
ECR	Margarita de la Pisa Carrión, Andżelika Anna Moźdzanowska, Jessica Stegrud
ID	Annika Bruna

2	0
ID	Simona Baldassarre, Isabella Tovaglieri

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention