



**2021/2106(DEC)**

27.1.2022

# **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 2020, Section III – Commission and executive agencies  
(2021/2106(DEC))

Rapporteur for opinion: Samira Rafaela

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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, as enshrined in Article 2 TEU, is one of the values on which the Union is founded; whereas the Union is committed to promoting its values, in accordance with Article 13 TEU, and gender mainstreaming in all of its activities as laid down in Article 8 TFEU;
- B. whereas Parliament has repeatedly urged the Commission to promote and implement the use of gender mainstreaming, gender budgeting and gender impact assessments in all the Union policy areas; and whereas Parliament has repeatedly urged the Court of Auditors (the 'Court') to incorporate a gender perspective, including through gender-disaggregated data, into its reports on the implementation of the Union budget;
- C. whereas the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated existing structural gender inequalities and affected women's employment disproportionately, in particular for those with precarious employment, or for those who are working in feminised sectors and in the informal economy; whereas this should be taken into account in all the economic recovery measures designed to mitigate the negative impact of the pandemic;
  1. Stresses that women's rights and a gender equality perspective should be integrated and ensured in all policy areas and at all levels of the budgetary process in order to transform revenues and expenditures to achieve the Union's gender equality goals, particularly in light of the gendered impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the backlash against women's rights in several Member States; reiterates, therefore, its call for the implementation of gender budgeting at all stages of the budgetary process, for the assessment of its execution including through gender-specific indicators; calls for more gender mainstreaming in the post-pandemic recovery response;
  2. Is concerned that the Court, in its Special report No 10/21 on gender mainstreaming in the EU budget (the 'Court's special report')<sup>1</sup>, found that the Commission has not adequately applied gender mainstreaming, has made insufficient use of gender-disaggregated data and indicators, and has published little information on the Union budget's overall impact on gender equality; stresses the need for the Commission to further develop gender mainstreaming methodology as recommended by the Court;
  3. Welcomes the fact that gender equality and mainstreaming is one of the horizontal principles for Union funds in the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2021-2027 and in the Recovery and Resilience Facility; recalls the commitment of the Commission to putting in place a methodology to effectively apply gender mainstreaming at programme level in the 2021-2027 MFF at the latest by the end of

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECADocuments/SR21\\_10/SR\\_Gender\\_mainstreaming\\_EN.pdf](https://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECADocuments/SR21_10/SR_Gender_mainstreaming_EN.pdf)

2022; expects the Commission to take its commitments on gender mainstreaming seriously, to closely monitor its implementation, as well as to apply it to all Union funding programmes and in the mid-term review of the current MFF; calls for gender impact assessments, gender objectives and gender monitoring to be rolled out as outlined in the Court's special report; calls on the Commission to ensure that women and men benefit equally from the recovery and resilience plans and the European Social Fund Plus; notes that the Court's special report and Parliament's own-initiative report on the gender dimension in cohesion policy consider that the structural funds are a very important resource to support Member States to achieve progress in the field of gender equality;

4. Strongly stresses the importance of increasing resources dedicated to preventing and combating gender-based violence under the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme, especially following the escalation of violence against women during the ongoing COVID-19 crisis; regrets the delay to the proposal of the Commission on preventing and combatting gender-based violence; reiterates its request for the Commission to include an independent budget line for all measures specifically targeting gender equality, including on gender-based violence;
5. Repeats its concern about the interrelation between the attacks on the rule of law and the backlash against gender equality and women's rights; calls on the Commission to strengthen the rule of law in the Union, and thus protect democracy, fundamental rights and equality, via the rule of law conditionality mechanism for access to Union funds; urges the Commission to strictly enforce this conditionality and effectively protect the Union's budget in the event of generalised deficiencies in upholding the rule of law against breaches of human rights, including women's rights, and violations of the fundamental values of the Union.

## INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

<b>Date adopted</b>	25.1.2022
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 28 -: 6 0: 2
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Isabella Adinolfi, Simona Baldassarre, Robert Biedroń, Vilija Blinkevičiūtė, 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, Sandra Pereira, 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, Hilde Vautmans, Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi, Marco Zullo
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Cyrus Engerer, Kira Marie Peter-Hansen, Irène Tolleret

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

28	+
PPE	Isabella Adinolfi, Rosa Estaràs Ferragut, Frances Fitzgerald, Cindy Franssen, Sirpa Pietikäinen, Christine Schneider, Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi, Elżbieta Katarzyna Łukacijewska
Renew	Karen Melchior, Samira Rafaela, María Soraya Rodríguez Ramos, Irène Tolleret, Hilde Vautmans, Marco Zullo
S&D	Robert Biedroń, Vilija Blinkevičiūtė, Cyrus Engerer, Heléne Fritzon, Lina Gálvez Muñoz, Maria Noichl, Pina Picierno, Evelyn Regner
The Left	Sandra Pereira, Eugenia Rodríguez Palop
Verts/ALE	Alice Kuhnke, Kira Marie Peter-Hansen, Diana Riba i Giner, Sylwia Spurek

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

2	0
NI	Livia Járóka
PPE	Arba Kokalari

### Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention