



2021/2129(DEC)

28.1.2022

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 budget of the European
Institute for Gender Equality for the financial year 2020
(2021/2129(DEC))

Rapporteur for opinion: Samira Rafaela

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, pursuant to Article 8 TFEU, the Union is to aim to eliminate inequalities, and to promote equality, between men and women in all its activities, thereby establishing the principle of gender mainstreaming, including via gender budgeting at all levels of the budgetary process;
- B. whereas women are disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly women working in precarious employment, feminised sectors and the informal economy as well as women affected by increased gender-based violence and harassment, unpaid and unequal care and domestic responsibilities, and restricted access to sexual and reproductive health and rights; whereas the COVID-19 pandemic threatens to roll back progress with regard to gender equality especially in Member States where the pre-pandemic indicators of gender equality were lower; whereas the Gender Equality Index 2021 registered a minuscule increase of just 0.6 points in comparison with the previous year¹;

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 and to support the integration of gender equality in all Union policies, and the resulting national policies; acknowledges the specialisation and great expertise of the EIGE in studies, research, the collection of high-quality data, the development of methodological tools and the assessment of national policies, especially in relation to gender-based violence and femicides across all EU Member States; recalls that, especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on gender equality and the backlash against women's rights and gender equality, increased budget and human resources including more staff are needed for the EIGE to adequately carry out its functions;
2. Welcomes the ongoing cooperation between the EIGE and Parliament's Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality ('FEMM Committee') and the EIGE's contribution to the ongoing work of the FEMM Committee such as on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, on gender-based violence, equal pay, gender budgeting and the development of a gender-sensitive parliament tool; stresses the valuable contribution that the EIGE can make to all Parliament committees, and encourages Parliament to establish an ever closer cooperation with the EIGE; encourages collaboration between the EIGE and other Union agencies; welcomes the EIGE's continuous work on the Gender Equality Index, which is a valuable tool for monitoring the progress of gender equality across the Union;

¹ <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-equality-index/2021>

3. Notes that the COVID-19 pandemic had a slight impact on the EIGE's budget execution rates in 2020, which nonetheless remain high with commitment appropriations of 97,75 % in 2020 (compared to 98,96 % in 2019), as well as payment appropriations of 74,82 % (compared to 82,5 % in 2019);
4. Acknowledges an increase in the EIGE's carry-over operating expenditure to 49,49 % in 2020 (compared to 28,01 % in 2019);
5. Notes that, in its annual report on EU agencies for the financial year 2020², the Court of Auditors (the 'Court') confirmed that the EIGE's annual accounts present fairly, in all material respects, its financial position at 31 December 2020, the results of its operations, its cash flows and the changes in net assets for the year then ended; notes that, according to the Court, the revenue and payments underlying the EIGE's annual accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020 are legal and regular in all material respects; acknowledges the EIGE's responses to the Court regarding procedures used for selecting and contracting external experts; notes the EIGE's failure to reveal information about payments from the Commission's Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) and calls on the EIGE to ensure that it provides all relevant information in this regard in the future; expects further cooperation between the EIGE and the Court in response to the recent judgement of the Court of Justice of the European Union regarding temporary agency work³;
6. Recommends, on the basis of the data currently available, that discharge be granted to the Director of the EIGE in respect of the implementation of the EIGE's budget for the financial year 2020.

² https://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECADocuments/AGENCIES_2020/AGENCIES_2020_EN.pdf

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX:62019CJ0948>

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	25.1.2022
Result of final vote	+: 29 -: 4 0: 3
Members present for the final vote	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, Andželika 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
Substitutes present for the final vote	Cyrus Engerer, Kira Marie Peter-Hansen, Irène Tolleret

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

29	+
EPP	Isabella Adinolfi, Rosa Estaràs Ferragut, Frances Fitzgerald, Cindy Franssen, Arba Kokalari, 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

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

3	0
ID	Simona Baldassarre, Isabella Tovaglieri
NI	Livia Járóka

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention