



2021/2226(BUI)

10.2.2022

OPINION

of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

for the Committee on Budgets

on guidelines for the 2023 budget – Section III
(2021/2226(BUI))

Rapporteur for opinion: Monika Vana

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality calls on the Committee on Budgets, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

- A. whereas gender equality is a core value of the Union enshrined in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union; whereas Article 8 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union states that 'in all its activities, the Union shall aim to eliminate inequalities and to promote equality between men and women', thus establishing the principle of gender mainstreaming, which stipulates that gender equality must be incorporated at all levels of the budgetary process;
- B. whereas discrimination needs to be eradicated and effectively addressed by the Member States and the EU; whereas an increasing percentage of the EU budget, including the EU structural funds and investments in high-quality care services, must be designed to facilitate a better work-life balance for all with a specific focus on improving equality, including for women, girls and LGBTI+ people;
 - 1. Notes that, although all EU institutions are guided by the Treaties and the 2020-2025 EU gender equality strategy in implementing gender mainstreaming in their policy-making and institutional affairs, there is currently no coherent approach or structured cooperation; calls for the swift implementation of the 2020-2025 EU gender equality strategy and stresses the need for additional action to be taken;
 - 2. Regrets that, despite Parliament's repeated calls for the promotion and implementation of the use of gender mainstreaming, gender budgeting and gender impact assessments in all Union policy areas, Special report 10/2021 published by the European Court of Auditors¹, confirmed that the EU's budget cycle does not yet adequately take gender equality into account and that the Commission has not yet lived up to its commitment to include gender mainstreaming in the EU budget; stresses that this situation should be adequately addressed by the Commission in its budget proposal for 2023; recalls the recommendations of the European Court of Auditors' 2021 report regarding the importance of the EU budget's contribution to achieving gender equality;
 - 3. Underlines that a gender perspective should be fully and adequately integrated at all levels of the budgetary process, particularly in the light of the gendered impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the increasing backlash against women's rights, including sexual and reproductive health and rights, in several Member States; calls for gender budgeting and the inclusion of gender-related objectives in all EU programmes and the identification of relevant budget lines, the effective monitoring of the EU budget's contribution to gender equality and a gender-sensitive review of programmes with spending adjusted according to the conclusions;
 - 4. Notes that gender equality is widely recognised as a significant driving force behind economic growth, and that the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) estimates

¹ European Court of Auditors, *Gender mainstreaming in the EU budget: time to turn words into action. Special report No 10, 2021*, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2021.

that improving gender equality could lead to an increase in EU GDP per capita of between 6.1 % and 9.6 % by 2050;

5. Stresses the need to systematically collect, report and evaluate high-quality gender-disaggregated data, which until now has not been properly collected and has been underused; calls for the inclusion of requirements to systematically collect and report this data in upcoming legislative proposals for EU funding programmes and as part of the performance reports in the annual budget, taking into account that the 2020-2025 gender equality strategy stresses the need for adequate data collection and related commitments from the Commission;
6. Regrets that until now the Commission has not adequately incorporated gender mainstreaming in the budgetary process despite the fact that it is a horizontal principle within the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework; welcomes the Commission's commitment to develop a methodology to measure gender-relevant expenditure and its ongoing assessment of gender-related data collection; expects Parliament to be consulted throughout the assessment process, including before the publication of the Commission's annual management and performance report; recalls that the gender action plan (GAP) III and the citizens, equality, rights and values programme (CERV) have gender-related spending targets; expects the Commission to fully implement its commitments and to report specifically on this to the budgetary authority;
7. Stresses the importance of training to provide staff with the expertise to effectively implement gender mainstreaming and gender budgeting;
8. Recalls the important role of the EIGE in collecting data and providing expertise on gender inequality in the EU; calls on the Commission to adequately increase resources for the EIGE, both in terms of budget and staff, so that it can perform its essential duties, especially in the contexts of the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on gender equality and the backlash against women's rights;
9. Stresses the importance of investments in high-quality public services, including healthcare and social infrastructure, for coping with social and health crises, building social resilience and combating inequalities; stresses the importance of creating high-quality jobs in these sectors in order to achieve a just transition towards a less carbon intensive society;
10. Reiterates that women have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, including with regard to an escalation of gender-based violence and harassment, restricted access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, unpaid and unequal distribution of care and domestic responsibilities, and employment, particularly for those in precarious employment, feminised sectors and the informal economy; stresses the importance of mitigating growing inequalities, in particular through the implementation of gender-responsive budgeting in the recovery and resilience plans provided for in NextGenerationEU and cohesion policy, and by ensuring gender equality in digitalisation; stresses, therefore, the importance of promoting digital education and knowledge of digital technologies, and of considering the gender dimension of EU digitalisation policies;
11. Regrets the gender gap in digital skills, science, technology, engineering and

mathematics (STEM) careers, industrial leadership and entrepreneurship; stresses the importance of promoting women's economic empowerment by, among other measures, supporting women's entrepreneurship; reiterates that the EU budget should be equipped with tools to encourage women's participation and interest in the digital economy and STEM sectors and careers through Union programmes in areas including research, innovation and technology; calls on the Commission to allocate greater resources for these areas, strengthen the instruments available and develop cooperation between these instruments to advance gender equality in these sectors, including for women in rural areas;

12. Stresses the importance of adequate and dedicated financial resources for relevant programmes, including under EU instruments such as the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe and CERV, in a context of rising backlash against gender equality and women's rights and an increase in gender-based violence during the COVID-19 crisis;
13. Calls for increased, ambitious and specific budget allocations for preventing and combating gender-based violence within Daphne;
14. Calls on the Commission to increase budget allocation to civil society organisations that promote women's rights in Europe and beyond, including those working on sexual and reproductive health and rights, such as those that facilitate cross-border cooperation between organisations providing safe and legal abortions;
15. Recalls the requirement to allocate at least 40 % of the funds dedicated to CERV's equality, rights and gender equality strand and Daphne strand to activities to prevent and combat all forms of gender-based violence and at least 15 % to activities that promote women's full enjoyment of rights, empowerment, gender mainstreaming and gender equality, including work-life balance;
16. Stresses the importance of cohesion policy in promoting gender equality; welcomes that a gender equality-related expenditure tracking system was included in the European Social Fund Plus, the European Regional Development Fund and the Cohesion Fund, which will allow for the better monitoring of investments related to gender equality; regrets the assessment, during negotiations, that a gender breakdown is not relevant to the European Regional Development Fund and the Cohesion Fund in most cases;
17. Reiterates the request for separate dedicated budget lines specifically targeting measures related to gender-based violence, gender equality and gender mainstreaming in CERV; reiterates that all programmes, as standard practice, should include goals and indicators related to gender equality in order to deliver concrete and measurable impacts, and should have dedicated budget lines when including specific targeted measures;
18. Calls on the Commission to increase funding devoted to awareness-raising campaigns and combating gender stereotypes;
19. Calls for greater coordination between the instruments available in the EU budget to advance gender equality, improve work-life balance and support women's access to the labour market, including by ensuring investment in care facilities;

20. Reiterates the need for greater efforts to support women in more vulnerable situations, including women with disabilities, single mothers, migrant women, women living in remote rural areas and women facing discrimination on the grounds of race, colour or ethnic origin, as well as LGBTI+ people.

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	10.2.2022
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, Radka Maxová, Andželika Anna Możdżanowska, Maria Noichl, Sandra Pereira, Pina Picierno, Sirpa Pietikäinen, Samira Rafaela, Evelyn Regner, Terry Reintke, Diana Riba i Giner, Eugenia Rodríguez Palop, María Soraya Rodríguez Ramos, Christine Schneider, Sylwia Spurek, Jessica Stegrud, Isabella Tovaglieri, Hilde Vautmans, Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi, Chrysoula Zacharopoulou, Marco Zullo
Substitutes present for the final vote	Sylvie Brunet

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

29	+
PPE	Isabella Adinolfi, Rosa Estaràs Ferragut, Frances Fitzgerald, Cindy Franssen, Arba Kokalari, Elżbieta Katarzyna Łukacijewska, Sirpa Pietikäinen, Christine Schneider, Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi
Renew	Sylvie Brunet, Samira Rafaela, María Soraya Rodríguez Ramos, Hilde Vautmans, Chrysoula Zacharopoulou, Marco Zullo
S&D	Robert Biedroń, Vilija Blinkevičiūtė, Helène Fritzon, Lina Gálvez Muñoz, Radka Maxová, Maria Noichl, Pina Picierno, Evelyn Regner
The Left	Sandra Pereira, Eugenia Rodríguez Palop
Verts/ALE	Alice Kuhnke, Terry Reintke, Diana Riba i Giner, Sylwia Spurek

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

3	0
ID	Simona Baldassarre, Isabella Tovaglieri
NI	Lívía Járóka

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention