



*Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality
The Chair*

25.2.2021

Mr Johan Van Overtveldt
Chair
Committee on Budgets
BRUSSELS

Subject: Opinion on Guidelines for the 2022 Budget - Section III (2020/2265(BUI))

Dear Mr Van Overtveldt,

Under the procedure referred to above, the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality has been asked to submit an opinion to your committee, which was approved at its meeting of 25 January 2021.

The Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality adopted this opinion in a form of a letter at its meeting of 25 February 2021¹ and calls on the Committee on Budgets, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution.

Yours sincerely,

Evelyn Regner

¹ The following were present for the final vote: Evelyn Regner (Chair), Simona Baldassarre, Robert Biedroń (Vice-Chair), Annika Bruna, Rosa Estaràs Ferragut, Frances Fitzgerald, Cindy Franssen, Heléne Fritzon, Lina Gálvez Muñoz, Livia Járóka, Arba Kokalari, Alice Kuhnke, Karen Melchior, Andželika Anna Mozdżanowska, Maria Noichl, Pina Picierno, Sirpa Pietikäinen, Samira Rafaela, Diana Riba i Giner, Eugenia Rodríguez Palop (Vice-Chair), María Soraya Rodríguez Ramos, Christine Schneider, Sylwia Spurek (Vice-Chair), Jessica Stegrud, Isabella Tovaglieri, Ernest Urtasun, Hilde Vautmans, Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi (Vice-Chair), Chrysoula Zacharopoulou, Margarita de la Pisa Carrión, Elżbieta Katarzyna Łukacijewska

SUGGESTIONS

Putting equality at the core of EU policies

1. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to apply effectively the gender mainstreaming horizontal priority in the multiannual financial framework 2021-2027; is concerned that a review by the European Court of Auditors revealed that gender equality has not been mainstreamed across the Union budget in the same way as for example climate change, and welcomes the Court's decision to examine this issue; calls on the Commission to implement gender-responsive budgeting to ensure women and men benefit equally from public spending including within Next Generation EU, especially within the economic recovery measures;
2. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to apply a gender-sensitive approach to recovery plans for the COVID-19 crisis and its aftermath, bearing in mind that the COVID-19 crisis disproportionately affected women and exacerbated gender inequalities, with a focus on employment and work-life balance measures and including the collection of gender-disaggregated data, gender impact assessments and other specific measures for tackling gender inequality;
3. Stresses the need for adequate funding for preventing and combating gender-based violence within the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme, noting the increase in gender-based violence during the COVID-19 crisis; recalls the requirements for the Equality, Rights and Gender Equality strand and the DAPHNE strand that at least 40% of funds should be dedicated to preventing and combatting gender-based violence and at least 15% to promoting women's full enjoyment of rights and gender equality, including work-life balance, women's empowerment and gender mainstreaming; calls for special attention to be paid to cyber violence against women in this and other related horizontal programmes;
4. Reiterates its request for the Commission to include an independent budget line for all measures specifically targeting gender equality, including on gender-based violence, in which the Parliament should play a fundamental role in its capacity as budgetary authority;
5. Calls on the Commission to increase budget allocation to civil society organisations that promote women's rights in Europe, including Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights;
6. Calls for qualitative budget reporting on the Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in External Action 2021-2025, especially the 85% of external actions that are to contribute to gender equality;
7. Regrets the gender gap in digital skills, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics careers, in industrial leadership, and in entrepreneurship; calls on the Commission to strengthen the instruments available and to develop synergies between these to advance gender equality in these sectors, including for women in rural areas;
8. Recalls the important role played by the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)

in collecting data and providing expertise in order to understand the extent and causes of inequality between men and women in the EU; calls for EIGE's budget to be increased, or at least kept at current levels.