



2021/2003(INI)

27.4.2021

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on International Trade

for the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

on the EU Gender Action Plan III
(2021/2003(INI))

Rapporteur for opinion: Inma Rodríguez-Piñero

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SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Welcomes the fact that the new EU Gender Action Plan 2021-2025 (GAP III) calls for the promotion of gender equality through the EU's trade policy and recalls the necessary support for the inclusion of a specific gender chapter in EU trade and investment agreements;
2. Notes that trade policy is not gender neutral and that better collection of gender-disaggregated data, together with clear indicators, is needed to adequately assess the different impacts of trade policy on women and men; reiterates its call for the EU and its Member States to include in ex ante and ex post impact assessments the country-specific and sector-specific gender impact of EU trade policy and agreements;
3. Calls for the Commission to engage actively in the recently established WTO Informal Working Group on Trade and Gender to work towards a strong Ministerial Declaration in the 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12) that could serve as a road map for the implementation of the 2017 Buenos Aires Declaration;
4. Recognises the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the participation in trade of female entrepreneurs and women; calls for COVID-19 recovery strategies to pay special attention to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), which are often run by women, and to sectors with higher female participation (agriculture, tourism, garment and retail);
5. Notes with concern the persistent gender gap in digital access and digital skills; calls for the Commission and the Member States to support female entrepreneurs in acquiring the necessary skills through development cooperation and Aid for Trade;
6. Calls on the Commission to ensure that sufficient resources are available to promote the core value of gender equality in its trade and investment policies and to ensure that the secretariats of the EU institutions responsible for trade policy and negotiations have the knowledge and technical capacity to incorporate the gender perspective.