

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



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*Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality*

**2006/2018(BUD)**

14.9.2006

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

for the Committee on Budgets

on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2007  
(C6-0000/2006 – 2006/2018(BUD))

Section III - Commission

Draftswoman: Piia-Noora Kauppi

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## 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 in its motion for a resolution:

1. Recalls the principle of gender mainstreaming as enshrined in the Amsterdam Treaty, whereby a gender equality perspective does not only apply to measures designed specifically to promote equal opportunities but should be incorporated in all policies and at all levels of the budgetary process by means of gender budgeting;
2. Notes that its resolution from 3 July 2003 on gender budgeting, building public budgets from a gender perspective<sup>1</sup> addressed the fact that public budgets, including the EU budget, are not gender-neutral and have a different impact on women and men;
3. Stresses that the Commission should develop a monitoring and evaluation system that shows the effects on men and women of various budget lines in terms of implementing the principle of gender equality;
4. Reiterates the call for the use of the gender budgeting approach to assess and restructure all pertinent budget programmes, measures and policies, determine to what extent resources are allocated in gender equal or unequal ways and ultimately achieve gender neutrality, where equal consideration is given regardless of gender;
5. Regrets that, as a result of the restructuring of Title 04 *Employment and social affairs*, the chapter *Equal opportunities for women and men* is not retained as a separate item and there is no longer any reference to the issue; believes that the new designation of Chapter 04 04 *Employment and social solidarity* will diminish the authority and visibility of gender equality issues; therefore suggests that the heading of the new Chapter 04 04 should include a reference to gender equality;
6. Stresses that the budget should reflect the strategies set out in the Beijing Platform for Action and the Lisbon Strategy so as to achieve a balanced representation of women among social partners, increased involvement of women in economic decision-making and increased access for women both to education and to actions and programmes relating to research, technology and the information society;
7. Considers that one of the priorities of the EU budget for 2007 is the need to take account of the enlargement to Romania and Bulgaria and the re-allocation of a number of key budget lines; stresses the need to ensure that they will have full access to programmes covering gender equality and women's rights issues;
8. Points out that, while pre-accession assistance for Turkey (Item 22 02 04 01) keeps increasing, it is crucial to support Turkey's efforts further to improve protection of human rights, and especially that of women's rights, and suggests earmarking a certain percentage of funds for actions and programmes based on sufficient levels of financing and aimed at improving gender equality and protection of women's rights, especially those undertaken in common with women's organisations in the Member States;

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C 74 E, 24.3.2004, p. 746.

9. Reiterates that, as pointed out both in the conclusions of the Thessaloniki European Council of 19 and 29 June 2003 and in its own resolution of 1 June 2006 on the situation of women in armed conflicts and their role in the reconstruction and democratic process in post-conflict countries<sup>1</sup>, women have an active role to play in establishing and maintaining peace and in securing democracy; considers that EU aid to countries and regions devastated by armed conflict and war, such as Afghanistan, Iraq and Lebanon, should be specifically linked to promoting this role and to the reinsertion and participation of women in social, economic and political life; is of the opinion that total transparency of funding of reconstruction in Afghanistan, Iraq and Lebanon must therefore be ensured by establishing specific budget lines to this effect.

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<sup>1</sup> Texts Adopted of that date, P6\_TA(2006)0245.

## PROCEDURE

<b>Title</b>	The draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2007 - Section III - Commission	
<b>Procedure number</b>	2006/2018(BUD)	
<b>Committee responsible</b>	BUDG	
<b>Opinion by</b> Date announced in plenary	FEMM	
<b>Enhanced cooperation – date announced in plenary</b>		
<b>Drafts(wo)man</b> Date appointed	Noora Kauppi 21.2.2006	
<b>Previous drafts(wo)man</b>		
<b>Discussed in committee</b>	11.7.2006	13.9.2006
<b>Date adopted</b>	13.9.2006	
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 22 –: 1 0: 0	
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Edit Bauer, Edite Estrela, Věra Flasarová, Claire Gibault, Lissy Gröner, Zita Gurmai, Anneli Jäätteenmäki, Piia-Noora Kauppi, Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou, Urszula Krupa, Astrid Lulling, Siiri Oviir, Christa Prets, Marie-Line Reynaud, Raül Romeva i Rueda, Amalia Sartori, Eva-Britt Svensson, Britta Thomsen, Anna Záborská	
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Iratxe García Pérez, Ana Maria Gomes, Zita Pleštinská, Karin Resetarits	
<b>Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote</b>		
<b>Comments (available in one language only)</b>	...	