



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2014 - 2019

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*Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality*

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**2014/2238(INI)**

7.5.2015

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

for the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

on the Green Employment Initiative: tapping into the job creation potential of  
the green economy  
(2014/2238(INI))

Rapporteur: Monika Vana

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## SUGGESTIONS

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

- having regard to Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) and Article 8 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU),
  - having regard to Article 23 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union,
  - having regard to its resolution of 11 September 2012 on the role of women in the green economy<sup>1</sup>,
- A. whereas the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) broadly describe a green job as any decent job that contributes to preserving or restoring the quality of the environment, whether it is in agriculture, industry, services or administration, and whereas the concept is still difficult to define precisely;
- B. whereas a gender perspective must be linked with the ILO's decent work agenda;
- C. whereas the Europe 2020 strategy is the main EU policy under which the goal of sustainable growth goes beyond climate change and covers a wider range of issues, seeking to transform the EU economy along a smart, green (ecological) line; whereas creating green jobs for women will strengthen efforts to reach the Europe 2020 targets, specifically in the fight against climate change and against poverty and social exclusion, and the pursuit of an employment rate of at least 75 %;
- D. whereas fulfilment of the Europe 2020 strategy objectives, and the implementation of transitional guidelines and policies for a green economy, have an impact on the employment market, while the role of women in green employment is underestimated and often ignored and the absence of a gender-equality perspective in environmental policies increases gender inequality;
- E. whereas women must benefit equally from the creation of green jobs, and the glass ceiling in the green economy must be broken, and whereas equal opportunities should be guaranteed when new jobs, including green jobs, are created;
- F. whereas women and girls are underrepresented in science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM) and entrepreneurship education at all levels, all of which are relevant to advancement in the area of green skills and green jobs; whereas education must be seen as an investment in individuals, and in women in particular, at every stage in their lives; whereas the participation of women in STEM education fields is often hampered by gender stereotypes and gendered cultures;

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C 353 E, 3.12.2013, p. 38.

- G. whereas green jobs are viewed as a dynamic concept evolving in line with more environmentally friendly technological progress and investment, including through the Commission's investment plan and the European Structural and Investment Funds, and must not benefit only highly qualified workers;
- H. whereas women are disproportionately hit by the crises and by austerity policies, and green jobs have shown to be more crisis-resistant than others;
- I. whereas creating green jobs is necessary but not sufficient, and there is the need for a transition to a green and sustainable economy, e.g. through better management of natural resources, use of economic instruments beneficial to the environment, provision of support to innovations and to improved policies in agriculture, water and waste, and enhanced sustainable consumption and production;
- J. whereas the role of civil society is crucial in the transition to a green economy as well as in the fight for gender equality;
- K. whereas more attention should be given to green employment in rural areas by providing support to women farmers and family farms in order to secure their income, through green growth, and to enable them to remain living in villages as food producers and protectors of the environment;
1. Considers that the ILO and UNEP definition of green jobs should be taken as a basis by the EU, since green jobs need to pair concerns such as energy efficiency and low emissions with traditional labour concerns, given that women often suffer from lower wages for equal skills and responsibilities and unfavourable working conditions; however, it should not be limited to agriculture, industry, services and administration, but include all areas of work;
  2. Recognises the urgent need for an international agreement regarding a common definition of the green economy, based on the pillars of both social and ecological sustainability; emphasises the significant role of the civil society, especially social movements, environmental organisations, and women's rights organisations, when establishing descriptions of aims and objectives of the green economy;
  3. Calls on the Commission to ensure that data collection is carried out in all green sectors, including those that are currently neglected, such as public transport and the retail sector; asks the Commission, while providing support to national statistical offices and Public Employment Services (PES), and while reinforcing the use of quantitative modelling tools, to incorporate a gender equality perspective in data collection on all green employment sectors;
  4. Asks the Commission to include a gender perspective in the development of new data collection, disaggregation and analysis, such as work carried out with the econometrical tool FIDELIO, or with stakeholders such as the International Conference of Labour Statisticians;
  5. Asks the Commission to include a gender perspective in its work with PES and the EU Skills Panorama to identify and bridge green skills gaps in labour markets; stresses that

emphasis must be placed on identifying and closing gender skills gaps in green sectors;

6. Urges the Commission and the Member States to start applying a new, social and climate-friendly indicator on growth that includes non-economic aspects of wellbeing and sets its primary focus on issues related to sustainable development, such as gender equality, poverty reduction and lower GHG emissions;
7. Asks the Commission to initiate research on gender equality in relation to green employment and the ecological transformation of the economy, and on women's contribution to the development of green innovations, services and products;
8. Invites the Commission, the Member States and the regional and local authorities systematically to include a gender equality perspective in the definition, implementation and monitoring of green job creation policies at all levels, with a view to ensuring that equal opportunities are being guaranteed, taking into account the challenges of green job creation in rural areas; encourages the Member States and the regional and local authorities to make further efforts to enable women to participate fully in policy formulation, decision-making and the implementation of a green employment strategy that includes green skills;
9. Calls on the Commission to promote gender equality as a key issue when designing and negotiating on future regulations and programmes for the EU structural funds (ESF, ERDF, CAP), especially in the framework of measures related to the transformation towards a green economy;
10. Asks the Commission to open a public debate on, and to promote the concept of 'education for sustainable development', with special emphasis on the education of girls and women; calls on the Member States and the Commission to promote policies to encourage higher participation of women in education in STEM subjects and entrepreneurship, and to connect the green jobs agenda to the empowerment of women through education; calls for the establishment of clear targets and monitoring for women's recruitment into green jobs through apprenticeship programmes; calls for measures encouraging women's participation in vocational education and training (VET) and life-long learning opportunities in green sectors;
11. Stresses the need to promote: women's entrepreneurship in the green economy; more collaborative business models such as cooperatives and social enterprises, as well as women farmers and family farms; access to microfinance for women; the creation of green jobs in public services; and pilot projects on gender-related quality criteria for companies in the context of public procurement;
12. Calls on the Commission, the Member States and the regional and local authorities to pursue an active labour market policy for women in the field of green employment;
13. Calls on the Member States and the Commission to pursue all-green employment policies in close consultation with civil society;
14. Calls on the Member States and the Commission to establish gender mainstreaming mechanisms in environmental policies at international, national and regional levels;

15. Calls on the Commission to promote a combination of ecological, economic, gender equality and labour market policies with a view to enhancing new skills in accordance with the new demands of a market in transition towards a green economy;
16. Calls on the Member States and the Commission to ensure the creation of high-quality green jobs with a high level of social protection for women; asks the Member States and the Commission to encourage the unionisation of women, also in green sectors, and a clear voice for women in trade unions and in the social dialogue;
17. Calls on the Commission to adopt a Europe 2015-2020 strategy for gender equality that takes into account the Europe 2020 strategy's employment rate targets for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	6.5.2015
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 31 -: 0 0: 2
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Daniela Aiuto, Maria Arena, Catherine Bearder, Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea, Vilija Blinkevičiūtė, Anna Maria Corazza Bildt, Viorica Dăncilă, Iratxe García Pérez, Anna Hedh, Mary Honeyball, Teresa Jiménez-Becerril Barrio, Elisabeth Köstinger, Agnieszka Kozłowska-Rajewicz, Angelika Mlinar, Angelika Niebler, Maria Noichl, Marijana Petir, Terry Reintke, Liliana Rodrigues, Jordi Sebastià, Michaela Šojdrová, Ángela Vallina, Beatrix von Storch, Anna Záborská, Jana Žitňanská, Inês Cristina Zuber
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Stefan Eck, Constance Le Grip, Georg Mayer, Sirpa Pietikäinen, Monika Vana, Julie Ward
<b>Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote</b>	Isabella Adinolfi