



Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

2017/2052(INI)

6.12.2017

OPINION

of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

for the Committee on Budgets

on the next MFF: preparing Parliament's position on the MFF post-2020
(2017/2052(INI))

Rapporteur: Iratxe García Pérez

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 under Article 8 of the TFEU, the promotion of equality between men and women is a fundamental principle of the European Union, and whereas gender mainstreaming is therefore a legal obligation stemming directly from the Treaties; whereas, moreover, an interinstitutional joint declaration on gender mainstreaming is attached to the MFF;
 - B. whereas for the 2014-2020 MFF, the attached joint declaration of November 2013 of Parliament, the Council and the Commission embodied the agreement that the annual budgetary procedures applying to the MFF would, as appropriate, integrate gender-responsive elements, taking into account the ways in which the overall financial framework of the Union contributes to greater gender equality and ensures gender mainstreaming;
 - C. whereas the Commission communication of 14 September 2016 on the MFF mid-term review makes no reference to the implementation of gender mainstreaming;
 - D. whereas following the inclusion of the Daphne programme within the Rights, Equality and Citizenship programme, an appropriate and fair allocation of financial support should have been ensured, taking into account the level of funding already allocated under the previous 2007-2013 programmes;
 - E. whereas Parliament has repeatedly called for the Daphne specific objective of the Rights, Equality and Citizenship programme to receive sufficient funding and for its profile to be kept as high as possible; whereas, however, the level of funding available for Daphne decreased in the 2014-2020 period, compared to the 2007-2013 period;
 - F. whereas access to public services is an essential condition for guaranteeing women's economic independence and empowerment; whereas public services remain an important employment sector for women;
1. Recalls that gender equality is enshrined in the EU Treaty; stresses the need for gender mainstreaming in all EU policies, programmes and initiatives so as to deliver equality in practice; stresses that gender budgeting must become an integral part of the budgetary procedure at all its stages and in all budget lines, and not only in programmes in which the gender impact is most obvious, so that budgetary expenditure becomes an effective tool for promoting equality between women and men;
 2. Underlines the need for stronger and more efficient integration of gender equality policies and gender mainstreaming tools during the next programming period;
 3. Notes that gender budgeting is part of an overall strategy on gender equality; stresses, therefore, that the commitment of EU institutions in this area is fundamental; regrets, in this context, that no EU gender equality strategy was adopted for 2016-2020, and calls on the Commission, echoing the Council conclusions of 16 June 2016 on gender

equality, to enhance the status of its Strategic Engagement for Gender Equality 2016-2019 by adopting it as a communication;

4. Regrets that, despite the joint declaration on gender mainstreaming annexed to the MFF, there has been no significant progress in this area, and no clear gender equality strategy with specific objectives and concrete targets and allocations has emerged from the MFF 2014-2020; calls for the expression of a renewed commitment by Parliament, the Council and the Commission to gender equality in the next MFF, by means of a joint declaration attached to the MFF, including a commitment to implementing gender budgeting; calls for effective monitoring of the implementation of this declaration in the annual budgetary procedures through the inclusion of a provision in a review clause in the new MFF Regulation;
5. Calls for gender equality to be explicitly mentioned in heading 3, 'Security and citizenship';
6. Points out that one of the EU's main objectives for the general budget is strategic investment and sustainable growth in order to boost economic cohesion and create jobs, in particular so as to increase female participation in the labour market, and that it is therefore crucially important to focus on enhancing women's potential in all sectors of the economy: the digital economy, information and communication technologies (ICT), and science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM); stresses that only through a specific focus on gender in those areas will it be possible to address the gender gap and the Union-wide skills shortfall in the ICT and STEM sectors;
7. Stresses the need to sufficiently finance, under the European Structural and Investment Funds and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), measures promoting and supporting good-quality education, employability, entrepreneurship and job creation for women and young people, especially those belonging to the most disadvantaged groups, both in urban and rural areas, including but not limited to opportunities in STEM sectors, so that budgetary expenditure is effectively used to achieve policy targets;
8. Repeats its call for the Daphne programme to have a separate budget line in order to increase transparency regarding use of the funds concerned and to ensure an appropriate level of funding for fighting violence against women; emphasises, in this regard, the need to increase resources for the Daphne specific objective in the 2014-2020 period in line with the allocations of the previous programming period;
9. Deplores the fact that the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) does not include a gender perspective; emphasises that a gender perspective should be included in the EFSI, since the EU will never fully and satisfactorily recover from the recent economic crises unless their impact on the women who, in the majority of cases, have been most affected, are addressed;
10. Recalls that a very significant number of refugees and asylum seekers entering the EU are women and children; highlights that gender mainstreaming is also among the founding principles of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF); reiterates its calls for the gender dimension to also be taken into account in migration and asylum policies; calls for efficient use of AMIF funds for the integration of refugees, their

families and asylum seekers;

11. Strongly condemns the reinstatement and expansion of the Global Gag Rule and its impact on global healthcare and rights for women and girls; reiterates its call for the EU and its Member States to fill the financing gap left by the US in the area of sexual and reproductive health and rights, using both national and EU development funding;
12. Stresses the importance of investing in high-quality public services and of earmarking set amounts for investment in the next MFF with a view to ensuring an adequate provision of high-quality public services and affordable public social infrastructure, such as day-care centres, for the care of children, the elderly and other dependents;
13. Stresses that to enable the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) to meet its objectives properly, its budget and staff numbers must be increased in order to boost its capacity to provide adequate assistance to the Commission by supplying relevant information and technical assistance in priority areas such as equality between women and men and the fight against gender-based violence; points out that EIGE should remain a specific, separate institution within the institutional framework of the Union.

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	4.12.2017
Result of final vote	+: 16 -: 1 0: 4
Members present for the final vote	Daniela Aiuto, Maria Arena, Vilija Blinkevičiūtė, Anna Hedh, Mary Honeyball, Agnieszka Kozłowska-Rajewicz, Florent Marcellesi, Angelika Mlinar, Maria Noichl, Marijana Petir, Ángela Vallina, Anna Záborská
Substitutes present for the final vote	Stefan Eck, Sirpa Pietikäinen, Evelyn Regner, Marc Tarabella, Mylène Troszczynski, Julie Ward
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Max Andersson, Claudiu Ciprian Tănăsescu, Lambert van Nistelrooij

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

16	+
ALDE	Angelika Mlinar
EFDD	Daniela Aiuto
GUE/NGL	Stefan Eck, Ángela Vallina
PPE	Sirpa Pietikäinen
S&D	Maria Arena, Vilija Blinkevičiūtė, Anna Hedh, Mary Honeyball, Maria Noichl, Evelyn Regner, Claudiu Ciprian Tănăsescu, Marc Tarabella, Julie Ward
VERTS/ALE	Max Andersson, Florent Marcellesi

1	-
ENF	Mylène Troszczynski

4	0
PPE	Agnieszka Kozłowska-Rajewicz, Marijana Petir, Lambert van Nistelrooij, Anna Záborská

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention