



**2022/2081(DEC)**

25.1.2023

# **OPINION**

of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

for the Committee on Budgetary Control

on discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year [2021], Section III – Commission and executive agencies(2022/2081(DEC))

Rapporteur for opinion: Monika Vana

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## SUGGESTIONS

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

- A. whereas, gender equality and the elimination of inequalities are core values upon which the Union is founded, and the commitment to promote gender equality and gender mainstreaming in all of its actions as enshrined in Article 8 TFEU;
- B. whereas Parliament has repeatedly asked the Commission to promote and implement the use of gender mainstreaming, gender budgeting and gender impact assessments in all Union policy areas;
  1. Stresses that a gender equality perspective should be integrated and ensured into all policy areas, particularly in light of the multiple gendered impacts of various ongoing climate, energy and social crises, including the backlashes against gender equality and women's rights, especially sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), in several Member States and worldwide; reiterates therefore its call for the implementation of gender budgeting throughout the budgetary process; stresses the importance of gender budgeting in all recovery and alleviation measures to make use of EU programmes for mitigating gendered impacts of various crises;
  2. Repeats its concern at the interrelation between the attacks on the rule of law and the backlash on gender equality and women's rights; calls on the Commission to strengthen the rule of law in the Union, and thus protect fundamental rights and gender equality, via the rule of law conditionality mechanism for access to EU funds, including those legal proposals aimed at protecting the EU budget in case of generalised deficiencies as regards the rule of law, breaches of human rights, including women's rights and violations of the fundamental values of the European Union; as such, calls on the Commission to explore the core mission of those to whom EU funds are granted and to withhold funding from actors who seek to use EU funds for the purposes of backsliding human rights, particularly women's rights and gender equality;
  3. Notes with concern that special report 10/2021, published by the ECA<sup>1</sup>, confirmed that the Union's budget cycle does not yet adequately take gender equality into account and that the Commission had not fully implemented its commitment to include gender mainstreaming in the Union budget;
  4. Welcomes the position of gender equality and mainstreaming as one of the horizontal principles for Union funds in the Multiannual Financial Framework for 2021-2027 and in the Recovery and Resilience Facility and calls for gender impact assessments, objectives and monitoring to be deployed as outlined in the ECA report;
  5. Welcomes the Commission's work on a new classification when evaluating the gender

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<sup>1</sup> European Court of Auditors, Gender mainstreaming in the EU budget: time to turn words into action. Special report No 10, 2021, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2021.

impact of Union spending; calls on the Commission to ensure that this classification focuses on an accurate and comprehensive representation of the impact of programmes on gender equality; recalls that the pandemic in 2021 exacerbated existing structural gender inequalities and affected women's employment disproportionately, in particular women working in the informal economy and in precarious working conditions; insists that women and men should benefit equally from the Recovery and Resilience Facility, in particular in the light of the Union's gender pay gap of 13%;

6. Stresses the importance of using European Structural and Investment Funds such as the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) to promote gender equality, women's employment and access to the labour market, childcare and long-term care facilities;
7. Stresses the importance of strengthening the specifically dedicated Daphne initiative by increasing its resources, in particular measures that aim to combat all levels and all forms of gender-based violence against women and girls and domestic violence in line with Article 7(6) of Regulation (EU) 2021/692 and to properly support victims;
8. Regrets the lack of specific budget lines for measures dedicated to gender equality, especially within the Daphne programme, leading to a lack of transparency and accountability.
9. Is deeply concerned about revelations regarding the Commission's reaction to a rape which occurred in the institution in 2015 in which the Commission suspended the convicted and sentenced official but continued to pay his salary throughout the lengthy legal proceedings; calls on the Commission to strengthen the protocol to ensure that in such cases, the Commission should remove entirely the salary; calls on the Commission to add to its protocol the right to access to psychological and other support for victims; urges the Commission to ensure that all rules in place guarantee a zero-tolerance to any forms of misconduct and a full support for all victims; recalls the Commission's duty to put in place all necessary policies to prevent and address all forms of harassment and violence.

## INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

<b>Date adopted</b>	25.1.2023
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 24 -: 6 0: 1
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Isabella Adinolfi, Christine Anderson, Simona Baldassarre, Robert Biedroń, Vilija Blinkevičiūtė, Margarita de la Pisa Carrión, Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield, Rosa Estaràs Ferragut, Frances Fitzgerald, Lívia Járóka, Arba Kokalari, Alice Kuhnke, Elżbieta Katarzyna Łukacijewska, Karen Melchior, Johan Nissinen, Carina Ohlsson, Sirpa Pietikäinen, Samira Rafaela, Evelyn Regner, Diana Riba i Giner, Eugenia Rodríguez Palop, María Soraya Rodríguez Ramos, Christine Schneider, Michal Šimečka, Sylwia Spurek, Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Sylvie Brunet, Virginie Joron, Marina Kaljurand, Predrag Fred Matić
<b>Substitutes under Rule 209(7) present for the final vote</b>	Paola Ghidoni

## FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

24	+
PPE	Isabella Adinolfi, Rosa Estaràs Ferragut, Frances Fitzgerald, Arba Kokalari, Elżbieta Katarzyna Łukacijewska, Sirpa Pietikäinen, Christine Schneider, Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi
Renew	Sylvie Brunet, Karen Melchior, Samira Rafaela, María Soraya Rodríguez Ramos, Michal Šimečka
S&D	Robert Biedroń, Vilija Blinkevičiūtė, Marina Kaljurand, Predrag Fred Matić, Carina Ohlsson, Evelyn Regner
The Left	Eugenia Rodríguez Palop
Verts/ALE	Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield, Alice Kuhnke, Diana Riba i Giner, Sylwia Spurek,

6	-
ECR	Johan Nissinen, Margarita de la Pisa Carrión
ID	Christine Anderson, Simona Baldassarre, Paola Ghidoni, Virginie Joron

1	0
NI	Livia Járóka

**Key to symbols:**

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention