



28.1.2020

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

for the Committee on Budgets

on Guidelines for the 2021 budget - Section III
(2019/2213(BUD))

Rapporteur for opinion: Robert Biedroń

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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 into its motion for a resolution:

- A. whereas Article 8 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union states that 'in all its activities, the Union shall aim to eliminate inequalities and promote equality between men and women', thus stipulating that gender equality must be incorporated into all EU policies;
- B. whereas inequality is a growing problem in the EU, and whereas an increasing percentage of the EU budget must be spent on developing social rights and access to public welfare services, with a specific focus on improving gender equality, including for LGBTI persons, and the situation of women and girls;
- C. whereas women remain under-represented in leadership positions and devote more time than men to unpaid housework and care;
- D. whereas the Commission should maintain sufficient funding levels for programmes aimed at supporting women's rights, such as the Rights, Equality and Citizenship (REC) Programme, with a special focus on non-discrimination instruments and the prevention of gender-based violence;

Putting equality at the core of EU policies

- 1. Stresses that gender budgeting must become an integral part of the budgetary procedure at all of its stages and in all budget lines, so that budgetary expenditure becomes an effective tool for promoting gender equality; calls for gender mainstreaming to be consistently implemented in all EU programmes, financial instruments and the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI);
- 2. Reaffirms its request for more investment to uphold the rights of women and girls; calls for budgetary allocations to support women's economic independence through EU programmes and funds, such as COSME, Horizon 2020 and the EFSI;
- 3. Calls for greater synergies between the instruments available to advance gender equality and improve the work-life balance; reiterates the need for greater efforts to support the most vulnerable women, including women with disabilities, single mothers and migrant, ethnic minority and sexual minority women;
- 4. Calls for spending on gender equality to be traced and for proper indicators and a dedicated methodology to be established, particularly as regards the fight against gender-based discrimination, violence, sexual harassment and women's access to sexual and reproductive health and rights;
- 5. Calls for the EU to increase the budget allocation for civil society organisations that promote women's rights in Europe and the Global South;
- 6. Recalls the important role played by the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), and the need for a consolidated budget for collecting data and acquiring expertise in the

area of gender equality; calls for EIGE's budget, staff establishment plan and independence to be kept stable.