

Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2016/2144(INI)	Procedure completed
EU funds for gender equality		
Subject 4.10.04 Gender equality		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 FEMM Women's Rights and Gender Equality	 MOODY Clare	12/09/2016
		Shadow rapporteur	
		 MATERA Barbara	
		 WIŚNIEWSKA Jadwiga	
		 MLINAR Angelika	
		 VANA Monika	
	 AIUTO Daniela		
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	 BUDG Budgets	 GARDIAZABAL RUBIAL Eider	15/06/2016
	 CONT Budgetary Control		
	 EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
European Commission	Commission DG Justice and Consumers	Commissioner JOUROVÁ Věra	

Key events			
15/09/2016	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
25/01/2017	Vote in committee		

08/02/2017	Committee report tabled for plenary	A8-0033/2017	Summary
13/03/2017	Debate in Parliament		
14/03/2017	Results of vote in Parliament		
14/03/2017	Decision by Parliament	T8-0075/2017	Summary
14/03/2017	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2016/2144(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	FEMM/8/07098

Documentation gateway

Committee draft report		PE594.036	16/11/2016	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE595.648	12/12/2016	EP	
Committee opinion	BUDG	PE592.269	16/12/2016	EP	
Committee opinion	CONT	PE593.962	19/01/2017	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A8-0033/2017	08/02/2017	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T8-0075/2017	14/03/2017	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2017)390	22/08/2017	EC	

EU funds for gender equality

The Committee on Womens Rights and Gender Equality adopted an own-initiative report by Clare MOODY (S&D, UK) on EU funds for gender equality.

Members noted that gender issues are usually more often addressed in soft policy areas, such as human resources development, rather than in hard ones, such as infrastructure and ICT, which receive higher financial support.

This report assesses how gender mainstreaming is applied in the EU funds.

European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds): the report pointed out that the ESI Funds constitutes the most important financial support for the implementation of gender equality policy in the EU, especially in the case of the European Social Fund (ESF), which aims to foster the full integration of women in the labour market.

In order to enhance female participation in the labour market and women's economic independence, Members called for the use of appropriate tools and incentives, including the European Funds such as ESF, the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), ensuring the necessary social infrastructure funding for the provision of quality, affordable and accessible care services for children and other dependent persons, including elderly dependents and family members with disabilities.

The report invited the Commission to propose new targeted actions aimed at encouraging women's participation in the labour market, such as a specific programme financed by the EAFRD to support female entrepreneurship.

Rights, Equality and Citizenship 2014-2020 programme (REC): Members regretted that the Daphne programme for combating violence against women has no separate budget line, given that it is currently one of the specific objectives of the [REC programme](#). Members emphasised the need for Daphne to be provided with sufficient financial support and for its visibility and highly successful profile to be maintained.

The Commission is called upon to increase support for European networks on gender equality themes and to bolster the requirement for the

collection of gender disaggregated data in the implementation of this programme.

Horizon 2020 programme (research and innovation): Members recalled the three mainstreaming objectives under the [Horizon 2020 programme](#), namely: (i) to foster equal opportunities and gender balance in project teams; (ii) to ensure gender balance in decision-making; and (iii) to integrate a gender dimension into research content.

They called for:

- gender mainstreaming to be further strengthened within this programme, and for the development of gender equality targets in strategies, programmes and projects at all stages of the research cycle;
- the maintenance of an independent line of funding for gender-specific structural change projects as well as of other gender equality topics in research and innovation.

As regards other instruments, the report called on the Commission to introduce a requirement for a gender-sensitive analysis into the [EU Solidarity Fund](#) when evaluating the impact on populations following natural disasters and in particular on the impact on women.

Members also stated that gender mainstreaming should also be included among the founding principles of the recent [Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund](#) (AMIF).

The report called for strategic recommendations on how to better internalise the EU declared principle of gender equality and gender mainstreaming in the budget allocation and spending decisions of the EU policy areas.

Members called for, inter alia:

- the EU-level funding of EUR 6.17 billion allocated in the current multiannual framework (MFF) for achieving the objectives of gender-strategic engagement as a first step to be increased in the next MFF;
- gender-specific indicators to be applied in the project selection, monitoring and evaluation phases of all actions that receive funding from the EU budget;
- the Commission to monitor closely the effectiveness of national complaints bodies and procedures in the implementation of gender equality directives.

EU funds for gender equality

The European Parliament adopted by 437 votes to 166, with 80 abstentions, a resolution on the EU funds for gender equality.

Members noted that gender issues are usually more often addressed in soft policy areas, such as human resources development, rather than in hard ones, such as infrastructure and ICT, which receive higher financial support.

The resolution called for European funding to be used more proactively in order to achieve gender equality goals.

European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds): in order to enhance female participation in the labour market and women's economic independence, Parliament called for the use of appropriate tools and incentives, including the European Funds such as ESF, the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), ensuring the necessary social infrastructure funding for the provision of quality, affordable and accessible care services for children and other dependent persons, including elderly dependents and family members with disabilities.

In general, use should be made of the potential of cross-cutting financing opportunities under ESI funds to support projects aimed at promoting gender equality.

Rights, Equality and Citizenship 2014-2020 programme (REC): Members regretted that the Daphne programme for combating violence against women has no separate budget line, given that it is currently one of the specific objectives of the [REC programme](#). Deploring the decrease in the funds available for the Daphne specific objective (EUR 20 million in 2011 compared to EUR 14 million foreseen for 2016), Parliament called for Daphne to be provided with sufficient financial support and for its visibility and highly successful profile to be maintained.

The resolution called for priority to be given to organisations dealing with the prevention of violence and supporting victims of all forms of violence. The Commission should increase support for European networks on gender equality themes as well as for gender equality initiatives such as the European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life.

Horizon 2020 programme (research and innovation): Parliament recalled the three mainstreaming objectives under the [Horizon 2020 programme](#), namely: (i) to foster equal opportunities and gender balance in project teams; (ii) to ensure gender balance in decision-making; and (iii) to integrate a gender dimension into research content.

They called for:

- gender mainstreaming to be further strengthened within this programme, and for the development of gender equality targets in strategies, programmes and projects at all stages of the research cycle;
- the maintenance of an independent line of funding for gender-specific structural change projects as well as of other gender equality topics in research and innovation.

As regards other instruments, Parliament called:

- for the introduction of a requirement for a gender-sensitive analysis into the [EU Solidarity Fund](#) when evaluating the impact on populations following natural disasters and in particular on the impact on women;
- for the allocation of EU development funds for voluntary, modern family planning and reproductive health services;
- for gender mainstreaming to be included among the founding principles of the recent [Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund](#) (AMIF).

Strategic recommendations: Parliament regretted the Commission's decision not to address the issue of implementing gender mainstreaming in its mid-term review of the multi-annual financial framework.

It recommended in particular:

- integrating and implementing strong and effective gender budgeting and gender mainstreaming in the post-2020 generation of EU funding programmes, with a view to increasing EU funding for measures to combat gender discrimination;
- for gender-specific indicators to be applied in the project selection, monitoring and evaluation phases of all actions that receive funding from the EU budget;
- for the close monitoring of the effectiveness of national complaints bodies and procedures in the implementation of gender equality directives.