

Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2021/2039(INI)	Procedure completed
Gender Mainstreaming in the European Parliament - annual report 2020		
Subject 4.10.04 Gender equality 8.40.01 European Parliament		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 Women's Rights and Gender Equality	 TOLLERET Irène	22/04/2021 22/04/2021
		 DELBOS-CORFIELD Gwendoline	
		Shadow rapporteur	
		 FITZGERALD Frances	
		 GÁLVEZ MUÑOZ Lina	
		 RODRÍGUEZ PALOP Eugenia	
European Commission	Commission DG Justice and Consumers	Commissioner DALLI Helena	

Key events			
29/04/2021	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
25/01/2022	Vote in committee		
08/02/2022	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0021/2022	Summary
08/03/2022	Debate in Parliament		
09/03/2022	Results of vote in Parliament		
10/03/2022	Decision by Parliament	T9-0072/2022	Summary

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2021/2039(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Annual report
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	FEMM/9/05369

Documentation gateway					
Committee draft report		PE697.615	22/09/2021	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE699.285	04/11/2021	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0021/2022	08/02/2022	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0072/2022	10/03/2022	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2022)271	14/07/2022	EC	

Gender Mainstreaming in the European Parliament - annual report 2020

The Committee on Womens Rights and Gender Equality adopted an own-initiative report by Irène TOLLERET (Renew Europe, FR) and Gwendoline DELBOS-CORFIELD (Greens/EFA, FR) on gender mainstreaming in the European Parliament annual report 2020.

Parliament should be a leader for other parliamentary bodies in its promotion of gender equality, learn from the best practices of other parliamentary bodies in gender mainstreaming its structures and processes and take into account good examples of gender-mainstreaming implementation in the public and private sectors and civil society. However, gender mainstreaming is still not yet fully integrated into Parliaments practices and rules. In the hearings organised by most of Parliament committees between the beginning of the current term and November 2020, women accounted for under 50 % of those present. For the Committees on Agriculture and Rural Development, Fisheries, Petitions and Employment and Social Affairs, among others, the proportion was below 25 %.

General remarks

Members regretted the fragmented implementation of gender mainstreaming across policy areas and institutions at the EU level. They stressed that gender equality is a joint responsibility that requires action by all EU institutions, Member States and agencies, in partnership with civil society, womens organisations, social partners and the private sector.

Noting the lack of quantitative and qualitative data on gender mainstreaming within the EU institutions, the report called for comprehensive gender statistics and for the creation of qualitative indicators on gender equality to collect additional gender-disaggregated data in order to continue improving gender equality.

Members welcomed the EIGEs Gender-sensitive parliaments toolkit that focuses on five key areas to be addressed: equal opportunities to enter the parliament, equal opportunities to influence the parliaments working procedures, adequate space on the parliamentary agenda for womens interests and concerns, the production of gender-sensitive legislation and compliance with the symbolic function of the parliament. They also welcomed the adoption of gender action plans by all Parliament committees but noted the lack of monitoring and implementation of these plans.

Opportunities to enter Parliament

Members noted that the percentage of women Members has slightly decreased since the end of last term from about 39.6 % to 39.1 %. They welcomed Parliaments leadership in this area, nevertheless, including its progress on female political representation, which is higher than the 30.4 % average across the national parliaments of the Member States and is significantly higher than the worldwide average of 25.2 % for national parliaments.

The report encouraged national political parties to introduce quotas when deciding on electoral candidates, even if the law does not provide for it. The lack of gender-responsive recruitment procedures in Parliament is regrettable according to Members.

Opportunities to influence Parliaments working procedures

The report welcomed the fully gender-balanced Bureau of Parliament with 8 female Vice-Presidents out of 14 and 2 female Quaestors out of 5. However, it called for gender balance in the leadership of committees, delegations and political groups to be improved.

Members also welcomed the amendment to Rule 213(1) of Parliaments Rules of Procedure requiring the bureau of each committee to be gender balanced. They regretted, however, that this amendment will enter into force only at the opening of the first part-session following Parliaments next elections, due to be held in 2024.

Regarding workplace harassment, the report noted that despite all efforts taken so far to ensure a zero-harassment policy, there are still cases

of sexual harassment in Parliament and efforts should be made to prevent sexual harassment.

The work-life balance measures should be revised. The report also called for increased non-transferrable maternity and paternity leave for Parliaments staff after welcoming a child, for a total of six months for each parent to be taken during the first year. Parental leave should be fully remunerated as opposed to a fixed allowance.

Parliaments services should examine the impact that menopause has on the working life of Parliament employees and Members called for menopause to be considered in sickness and attendance management policies.

Delivering legislation with a gender perspective

The report stressed the importance of gender impact assessments for the design of legislative proposals and gender-responsive evaluations of legislative initiatives. It regretted that gender impacts are rarely addressed as part of the Commissions impact assessments and asked the Commission to carry out and publish a gender impact assessment for each legislative proposal.

Members also regretted the Councils lack of commitment to delivering legislation with a gender perspective and reiterated requests to unblock the EU ratification of the Istanbul Convention, the horizontal anti-discrimination directive, which will ensure that the intersectional dimension is taken into account when combating gender discrimination, and the women on boards directive.

Gender Mainstreaming in the European Parliament - annual report 2020

The European Parliament adopted by 482 votes 139, with 68 abstentions, a resolution on gender mainstreaming in the European Parliament annual report 2020.

Parliament should be a leader for other parliamentary bodies in its promotion of gender equality. However, gender mainstreaming is not yet fully integrated into Parliaments practices and rules.

In the hearings organised by most of Parliament committees between the beginning of the current term and November 2020, women accounted for under 50 % of those present. For the Committees on Agriculture and Rural Development, Fisheries, Petitions and Employment and Social Affairs, among others, the proportion was below 25 %.

General remarks

Members regretted the fragmented implementation of gender mainstreaming across policy areas and institutions at the EU level. They stressed that gender equality is a joint responsibility that requires action by all EU institutions, Member States and agencies, in partnership with civil society, womens organisations, social partners and the private sector.

Noting the lack of quantitative and qualitative data on gender mainstreaming within the EU institutions, the report called for comprehensive gender statistics and for the creation of qualitative indicators on gender equality to collect additional gender-disaggregated data in order to continue improving gender equality.

Members welcomed the EIGEs Gender-sensitive parliaments toolkit that focuses on five key areas to be addressed: (i) equal opportunities to enter the parliament; (ii) equal opportunities to influence the parliaments working procedures; (iii) adequate space on the parliamentary agenda for womens interests and concerns; (iv) the production of gender-sensitive legislation and (v) compliance with the symbolic function of the parliament.

Parliament also welcomed the adoption of gender action plans by all Parliament committees but called for better monitoring of the implementation of these plans. It also welcomed the new provision in the Parliament's rules of procedure adopted in 2019, which includes the obligation to adopt an action plan on gender equality aimed at integrating a gender perspective in all the Parliament's activities.

Opportunities to enter Parliament

Members noted that the percentage of women Members has slightly decreased since the end of last term from about 39.6 % to 39.1 %. They welcomed Parliaments leadership in this area, nevertheless, including its progress on female political representation, which is higher than the 30.4 % average across the national parliaments of the Member States and is significantly higher than the worldwide average of 25.2 % for national parliaments.

The resolution insisted on the need to ensure gender balance through zipped lists or other equivalent methods in the upcoming revision of the EU electoral law, so that female and male candidates have an equal chance to be elected. It encouraged national political parties to introduce quotas when deciding on electoral candidates, even if the law does not provide for it. The lack of gender-responsive recruitment procedures in Parliament is regrettable according to Members.

Opportunities to influence Parliaments working procedures

Members welcomed the fully gender-balanced Bureau of Parliament with 8 female Vice-Presidents out of 14 and 2 female Quaestors out of 5. However, it called for gender balance in the leadership of committees, delegations and political groups to be improved.

Moreover, gender equality has not yet been achieved at all levels of the Parliament's administration. Members welcomed the fact that parity had been achieved at directors level, but regretted that women accounted for only 23.1% of Directors General and 39.3% of Heads of Unit. In this regard, they welcomed the Parliament's administration's targets to have 50% of middle and senior management positions and 40% of top management positions in the administration occupied by women by 2024.

Regarding workplace harassment, the resolution noted that despite all efforts taken so far to ensure a zero-harassment policy, there are still cases of sexual harassment in Parliament and efforts should be made to prevent sexual harassment. Efforts should be made to prevent sexual harassment, including by requiring anti-harassment training for all Members as well as for all those who regularly work on its premises.

The work-life balance measures should be revised taking into account, inter alia, the effects of teleworking following the COVID-19 pandemic and balancing flexible working structures with the requirements of a well-functioning and strong Parliament.

The resolution also called for increased non-transferrable maternity and paternity leave for Parliaments staff after welcoming a child, for a total of six months for each parent to be taken during the first year. Parental leave should be fully remunerated as opposed to a fixed allowance.

Delivering legislation with a gender perspective

Parliament stressed the importance of gender impact assessments for the design of legislative proposals and gender-responsive evaluations of legislative initiatives. It regretted that gender impacts are rarely addressed as part of the Commissions impact assessments and asked the Commission and recommended that gender equality should be taken into account in policy making where it is 'proportionate' to do so. It also called for a systematic implementation of gender mainstreaming in the EU budget.

Members also regretted the Councils lack of commitment to delivering legislation with a gender perspective and reiterated requests to unblock the EU ratification of the Istanbul Convention, the horizontal anti-discrimination directive, which will ensure that the intersectional dimension is taken into account when combating gender discrimination, and the women on boards directive.