



Council of the
European Union

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NOTE

From: Presidency
To: Working Party on Social Questions
Subject: European Court of Auditors Special Report 10/2021 on Gender
mainstreaming in the EU budget
- Draft Council Conclusions

Delegations will find attached a set of draft Council Conclusions prepared by the Presidency with a view to the meeting of the Social Questions Working Party on 13 September 2021.

Procedure

*The Presidency hopes that an agreement on these conclusions can be reached in two meetings. Delegations are therefore invited to make every effort to develop their positions in good time, with a view to holding a productive discussion at the meeting on 13 September. Written comments are welcome **even before the first meeting**, and should be sent to the following email addresses:*

LIFE.social@consilium.europa.eu and SIEPSCO.spbr@gov.si.

*NB. The **deadline for written comments** after the first meeting will be **17 September 2021**.*

**DRAFT Council Conclusions on the European Court of Auditors Special Report 10/2021 of
on Gender mainstreaming in the EU budget**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Special Report on Gender mainstreaming in the EU budget, submitted by the European Court of Auditors (ECA).
2. **UNDERLINES** the importance of gender mainstreaming being applied across the EU budget, in line with the commitment enshrined in Article 8 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, whereby “In all its activities, the Union shall aim to eliminate inequalities, and to promote equality, between women and men.”
3. **RECALLS** the commitments to improve monitoring of the expenditure towards gender equality as laid down in the Interinstitutional Agreement between the European Parliament, the Council of European Union and the European Commission of 16 December 2020.¹
4. **AFFIRMS** the economic benefits of gender equality which is a prerequisite of Europe’s competitiveness and sustainable and inclusive growth.
5. **HIGHLIGHTS** the cross-cutting relevance of the Special Report across different policy areas.

NOTES the concluding recommendations set out in the Special Report, whereby the Commission should, in the ECA’s view:

6. Strengthen its institutional framework;
7. Carry out gender analysis;
8. Collect and analyze sex-disaggregated data;
9. Use gender-related objectives and indicators;
10. Improve reporting on gender equality; and
11. Assess and report on whether the Recovery and Resilience Facility addresses gender equality.

¹ Interinstitutional Agreement between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management, as well as on new own resources, including a roadmap towards the introduction of new own resources.

CALLS UPON THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION, in cooperation with the MEMBER STATES, in the light of the recommendations of the Special Report, to

12. Systematically mainstream a gender perspective into all future EU strategies and policies, including by developing gender budgeting and gender impact assessment of EU legislative and policy measures as key tools for gender mainstreaming.
13. Further examine the Member States' recovery and resilience plans and their implementation from a gender equality perspective and report on how they have contributed to the promotion of gender equality.
14. Strengthen the institutional framework for supporting gender mainstreaming in the implementation of EU actions, and, for that purpose, to translate its commitment to gender mainstreaming into specific actions by:
 - a. Clarifying the roles and responsibilities for gender mainstreaming in all policy areas, nominating staff responsible for gender mainstreaming in each DG, and drawing up plans for implementing gender mainstreaming in each policy area;
 - b. Ensuring that DG BUDG steers, coordinates and monitors gender mainstreaming in the EU budget (i.e. gender budgeting) effectively;
 - c. Making training on gender mainstreaming available to all staff; and
 - d. Ensuring that DGs share information and practices and make consistent use of available tools and expertise when implementing gender mainstreaming, including the tools and expertise of EIGE.
15. Enhance the integration of gender equality into the EU budget cycle, by:
 - a. Updating the Commission's guidelines for assessing the potential economic, social and environmental impact of legislative proposals so as to strengthen the analysis of impacts on gender; and
 - b. Conducting gender analyses of the needs and impacts for EU funding programmes and instruments, and report on the results of these analyses.

16. Support the systematic production, collection, analysis, reporting and dissemination of sound and comparable sex-disaggregated data regarding EU funding programmes through the work of EIGE and Eurostat, as well as national statistical institutions, in order to reinforce knowledge-based policy-making.
17. Consider enhancing the use of gender-related objectives and indicators to monitor progress, by:
 - a. Identifying and using relevant existing data on gender equality, including indicators for which sex-disaggregated data is available for the 2021-2027 EU funding programmes and instruments; and
 - b. Including gender-related objectives and performance indicators in future legislative proposals, based on rigorous fact-based gender analyses.
18. Develop a robust system for tracking funds allocated and used to support gender equality and report annually on the results achieved in terms of gender equality, in order to improve accountability and budgetary transparency, and to ensure that reliable information on funds allocated to and used for the promotion of gender equality at programme level in the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027 is available.

