Recommendation to the Council on the EU priorities for the 61th session of the UN Commission on the status of women

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The Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality adopted the own-initiative report by Constance Le GRIP (EPP, FR) and Maria ARENA (S&D, BE) containing a proposal for a European Parliament recommendation to the Council on the EU priorities for the 61st session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women.

Members noted that equality between women and men is a fundamental principle of the EU, enshrined in the Treaty on European Union. They also noted that 20 years after Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing, the empowerment of girls and women is still not a reality.

Accordingly, Members asked Parliament to address the certain recommendation to the Council.

General conditions for empowering women and girls: the committee confirmed its commitment to the Beijing Platform for Action and to the range of actions for women's human rights and gender equality outlined therein. It also asked for the following:

- policies to invest in women's and girls' equal access to high-quality education and vocational training;
- combating all forms of violence against women and girls;
- universal access to sexual and reproductive health care and reproductive rights;
- elimination of the gender pay, lifelong earnings and pension gaps;
- ending all forms of discrimination against women in laws and policies at all levels.

Enhancing women's economic empowerment and overcoming barriers on the labour market: the main recommendations are:

- adopting policies and laws ensuring equal access to work and equal pay for equal work and work of equal value;
- intensifying work towards policies supporting and promoting female entrepreneurship;
- supporting policies that favour the equal sharing of domestic and care responsibilities between women and men;
- abolishing child labour.

Ensuring women's equal share at all levels of decision-making by:

- protecting civil and political rights and support ensuring gender balance in decision-making at all levels;
- strengthening women's leadership and participation in decision-making in conflict and post-conflict situations.

Addressing the needs of the most marginalised women: in this regard, the aims are to:

- facilitate land ownership and access to credit for rural women;

- emphasise the right of migrant women workers, especially migrant and refugee domestic workers, to decent working conditions and equal social protection;
- urge all parties to implement policies that guarantee the rights and humane treatment of women and girl refugees.

Translating these commitments into expenditure and making them more visible, by:

- mobilising the resources required to realise women's economic rights and reduce gender inequality;
- ensuring the full involvement of Parliament and its Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality in the decision-making process regarding the EU's position at the 61st session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women.