

Basic information	
2023/2115(INI)	Procedure completed
INI - Own-initiative procedure	
Gender aspects of the rising cost of living and the impact of the energy crisis	
Subject	
3.60 Energy policy 4.10.04 Gender equality 4.10.05 Social inclusion, poverty, minimum income 5.10.02 Price policy, price stabilisation	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	FEMM Women's Rights and Gender Equality	KUHNKE Alice (Greens/EFA)	11/09/2023
		Shadow rapporteur ADINOLFI Isabella (EPP) GÁLVEZ Lina (S&D) SOLÍS PÉREZ Susana (Renew) MOŽDŽANOWSKA Andżelika Anna (ECR) PEREIRA Sandra (The Left)	
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Justice and Consumers	DALLI Helena	

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
12/07/2023	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
30/11/2023	Vote in committee		
12/12/2023	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0430/2023	
17/01/2024	Debate in Parliament		
18/01/2024	Decision by Parliament	T9-0048/2024	Summary
18/01/2024	Results of vote in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2023/2115(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	FEMM/9/12588

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE752.947	14/09/2023	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE754.662	09/10/2023	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0430/2023	12/12/2023	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0048/2024	18/01/2024	Summary
European Commission				
Document type		Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2024)145	21/05/2024	

Gender aspects of the rising cost of living and the impact of the energy crisis

2023/2115(INI) - 18/01/2024 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 383 votes to 99, with 71 abstentions, a resolution on the gender aspects of the rising cost of living and the impact of the energy crisis.

The COVID-19 pandemic, the rising cost of living crisis and the war against Ukraine have intensified a pre-existing crisis and the precarious working and living conditions faced by many women. The gendered implications of such crises further perpetuate systemic gender inequalities across multiple sectors. This crisis acutely threatens women's livelihoods, health, well-being, economic independence and access to housing, while limiting their purchasing power and their ability to purchase basic necessities such as food, preventing them from enjoying a decent standard of living.

Women tend to be the 'shock absorbers of poverty carrying the main responsibility and mental burden for the planning, purchase and preparation of food for their families and the coordination of various other care and household tasks such as the budget management of poor households and are thus much more impacted by the rising cost of living and energy crisis.

Gender-sensitive solutions to energy poverty and the rising cost of living

Parliament called on the Commission to promote gender equality in all policymaking and stressed that more needs to be done since a gender perspective is lacking in the main climate, energy and environmental initiatives presented.

The resolution also called on the EU to promote an extraordinary package to support people struggling with skyrocketing costs of living, including EUR 100 billion for families, especially single-parent families – the vast majority of which are headed by women – most affected by energy poverty and at

least EUR 20 billion to scale up the European Child Guarantee scheme. Recalling that energy poverty affects women disproportionately throughout the EU, Member States should dedicate the necessary support to alleviate energy poverty among women.

Against this background, the Commission should:

- develop an ambitious 2030 European anti-poverty strategy, including time poverty, with concrete targets for reducing poverty and a focus on ending women's poverty and breaking the intergenerational cycle of poverty risks;
- assess and propose, where appropriate, new legislative acts to mitigate the financialisation of housing markets and to stop speculators from making housing unaffordable.

Towards a gender-inclusive green transition

Recalling that a just green transition is necessary to avoid severe future crises and increased poverty, Parliament called on the Commission to appoint an EU gender and climate coordinator with sufficient staff and funding, and to introduce gender impact assessments in all EU policies and legislation, in particular in European Green Deal initiatives.

The resolution deplored the fact that women are significantly under-represented in key policymaking positions on climate change, the energy transition and the environment. It called therefore on the EU and the Member States for positive action measures such as temporary quotas to ensure equal and diverse representation in decision-making positions across the EU institutions, government bodies and public authorities at all governance levels and associated public bodies.

The Commission and the Member States are also called on to reduce the gender gap in the energy sector by tackling the under-representation of women in STEAM careers and to ensure that women have equal access to vocational training courses and awareness-raising courses in STEAM subjects including those on energy efficiency and sufficiency and to create a positive link between acquiring knowledge and developing skills essential for emerging job opportunities in the digital and green transition.