

Basic information	
2025/2033(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
2024 budget – assessing the implementation of the gender mainstreaming methodology in the EU budget Subject 4.10.04 Gender equality 8.70.54 2024 budget	

Key players				
European Parliament	Committee responsible		Rapporteur	Appointed
	CONT Budgetary Control		MAIJ Marit (S&D)	25/07/2025
			Shadow rapporteur CHINNICI Caterina (EPP) JORON Virginie (P/E) ERIXON Dick (ECR) CHASTEL Olivier (Renew)	
European Commission	Commission DG		Commissioner	
	Budget		SERAFIN Piotr	

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
13/02/2025	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
16/10/2025	Vote in committee		
04/11/2025	Committee report tabled for plenary	A10-0212/2025	
25/11/2025	Decision by Parliament	T10-0287/2025	Summary
25/11/2025	Results of vote in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2025/2033(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure

Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/10/01977

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE775.770	04/08/2025	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE777.066	22/09/2025	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A10-0212/2025	04/11/2025	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T10-0287/2025	25/11/2025	Summary
European Commission				
Document type		Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2026)02-27	27/02/2026	

2024 budget – assessing the implementation of the gender mainstreaming methodology in the EU budget

2025/2033(INI) - 25/11/2025 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 389 votes to 213, with 36 abstentions, a resolution on the 2024 budget: assessing the implementation of the gender mainstreaming methodology in the EU budget.

Parliament welcomed the fact that, in line with its binding commitments and following repeated requests from Parliament, the Commission has developed a **pilot methodology to track and measure expenditure related to gender equality** at programme level in the 2021-2027 MFF, with a view to improving gender mainstreaming in the Commission's budget process and enhancing how policy design and resource allocation advance gender equality objectives.

Implementation of the methodology developed by the Commission

Members noted that the methodology was used for the first time in the process of drafting the estimates for the EU budget for the financial year 2023, accompanied by a retroactive application to the budgets of the financial years 2021 and 2022.

The decreasing share of commitments with a **score of 0*** (interventions with a likely but as yet unclear positive impact on gender equality) over the years is the result of an improvement in the collection and availability of data, and the Commission's reporting capacity, allowing its directorates-general to better measure the contribution of their programmes to gender equality at a more granular level.

For interventions over the period 2021 to 2024, **2 % were given a score of 2** (interventions of which the principal objective is to improve gender equality), **10 % were given a score of 1** (interventions that have gender equality as an important and deliberate objective but not as the main reason for the intervention), **83 % were given a score of 0** (non-targeted interventions, in other words, interventions that are expected to have no significant bearing on gender equality) and **5 % were given a score of 0***.

In total, during the 2021-2024 financial years, **12%** of EU budget expenditure contributed to the promotion of gender equality (with scores of 1 and 2), amounting to EUR 158.4 billion.

Parliament pointed out that **not all EU budget programmes perform equally** in integrating gender as a horizontal priority, with some programmes (such as those under heading 6 'Neighbourhood and the World' or Horizon Europe) performing much better thanks to their policy design.

However, the current method has **several limitations**. For example:

- it is designed for operational budgets and poorly assesses administrative budgets;
- it does not sufficiently take into account the secondary or indirect effects of programmes on gender equality, their possible negative impacts (particularly in areas such as competitiveness or defence) or intersectional dimensions;
- it does not allow for influencing the design of policies at an ex-ante stage, due to its ex-post nature.

Furthermore, the gender mainstreaming methodology applied to the EU budget means that certain EU programmes have gender equality mainstreamed in their legal bases while others do not. This approach is fragmented and does not impact all programmes to the same extent, therefore reducing the coherence of the EU's approach to gender equality.

Concluding remarks

Parliament acknowledged that, while the methodology developed by the Commission is a useful tool for assessing the contribution of the EU budget to gender equality, it has limitations. At a time when the EU budget is affected by multiple crises and shifts in political priorities, it is essential to for **gender budgeting to be proportionately built into the core of the budgetary cycle of programmes ex ante**, including in new priority areas, such as competitiveness, defence and preparedness.

Parliament invited the Commission to:

- develop a **comprehensive approach** to gender budgeting and a specific and comprehensive methodology for the EU budget, to be fully operationalised as early as the start of the next programming period;
- conduct systematic ex ante **impact assessments** that also analyse the specific impacts of EU policies and fiscal policy measures - including tax schemes and State aid programmes - on gender equality;
- establish a '**gender equality safeguard mechanism**' ensuring that proposals do not undermine the EU's gender equality objectives;
- assess the feasibility of introducing further gender equality parity measures at **management level** to ensure that all genders are sufficiently involved in policymaking through targeted support schemes;
- ensure that a **minimum share of the EU budget** is dedicated to gender equality as a principal objective (corresponding to score 2 in the current methodology);
- allocate an increased share of EU external actions budget to interventions that contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment and further dedicate **25 %** of the EU's external financing instruments in the upcoming MFF to promoting gender equality as a principal objective;
- set clear objectives for the next MFF in terms of contributing to narrowing the gender pay and pension gaps, and addressing the issue of **women's poverty**, including through improved childcare services;
- ensure that EU-funded programmes protect and promote **women's rights**, paying particular attention to access to public healthcare, childcare and sexual and reproductive health and rights.