



Gender-equal distribution of investments within the Recovery Fund

Dear Ms Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission,
Dear Mr Charles Michel, President of the European Council,

As Members of the Gender Mainstreaming Network within the European Parliament across all Committees, we are asking you to make sure that investments within the Recovery Funds will be distributed equally across genders. Recalling Article 23 of the European Charter of Fundamental Rights (“Equality between women and men must be ensured in all areas, including employment, work and pay”), at least half of the volume of the Recovery Fund should be spent on women’s jobs and the advancement of women’s rights as well as equality between women and men. Gender impact assessments and Gender Budgeting have to be applied for all funds spent in the framework of the Recovery instrument. Investments should in particular be made in the public sector, especially in the care sector for example by developing resilient child care services.

Since the start of the Coronavirus outbreak, we are witnessing a range of impacts this crisis is having on our societies, including a devastating impact on women and, more generally, on gender equality. On the one hand, we see the rise of gender based violence, the strain of unpaid care and domestic work for women heightening even more and reduced access to reproductive health and maternal services. On the other hand, we are witnessing the bravery of healthcare workers and carers, who continue taking care of the sick, the elderly and those in need. We see the important job done by cleaners and disinfectors, by cashiers and shop assistants in supermarkets, by postal workers and others. The large majority of those workers are women who are making critical contributions despite perils and despite being underpaid. Therefore, we believe it is high time and only fair to equally distribute the investments within the Recovery Fund.

We are looking forward to hearing back from you and remain at your disposal.

Yours sincerely,

Evelyn REGNER

Chair of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality, Chair of the Gender Mainstreaming Network

Dimitrios PAPADIMOULIS

Vice-President of the European Parliament

Chrysoula ZACHAROPOULOU

Member of the Gender Mainstreaming Network for the Committee on Development

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Member of the Gender Mainstreaming Network for the Committee on Transport and Tourism

Monika VANA

Member of the Gender Mainstreaming Network for the Committee on Regional Development

Pina PICIERNO

Member of the Gender Mainstreaming Network for the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

Lukasz KOHUT

Member of the Gender Mainstreaming Network for the Committee on Culture and Education

Sylwia SPUREK

Member of the Gender Mainstreaming Network for the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

Gwendoline DELBOS-CORFIELD

Member of the Gender Mainstreaming Network for the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

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