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European Union

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GENDER 24
BUDGET 14
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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: Prioritising gender budgeting in the future Multiannual Financial Framework

Delegations will find in the Annex a note for information from the Maltese delegation on the above subject, with a view to the meeting of the Council (EPSCO) on 13 June 2019 (Any Other Business item).

Prioritising gender budgeting in the future Multiannual Financial Framework

Gender budgeting has a firm basis in the EU commitment to gender mainstreaming expressed in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. While the EU is at the juncture of defining its political priorities for post-2020, it is imperative that the future EU budget (Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027) prioritises gender equality.

EU statistics on the gender pay gap show the persistent inequalities in wages. Data also shows that currently, throughout Europe, women spend more time on caring and housework, and end up with significantly lower pensions than men.

Despite the EU's legal obligations and political commitments to close the gender pay gap, less than 1% of the EU's structural and investment funds has been set aside for the promotion of gender equality under the current MFF.

It is essential that gender equality is a priority across the new MFF. Moreover, there must be budgetary targets that could effectively be used to ensure more participation by women in the labour market and to work towards eliminating the gender pay gap throughout the EU.

It is imperative that gender budgeting is featured as a horizontal policy in the entire MFF and its funding programmes.