



JOHANNES HAHN
MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HELEN DALLI
MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 13 February 2024

Dear Ms van Dijk,

Congratulations on your recent appointment as new Chair of the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)'s Management Board.

Thank you for EIGE's letter of 9 November 2023 concerning the most recent external evaluation of EIGE's Management Board, the results of which were issued in November 2022.

We understand that after its first letter with recommendations to the Commission following the evaluation, the Management Board of EIGE had additional discussions and decided to further substantiate and clarify its recommendations in this second letter.

We take note of EIGE's invitation to the Commission to propose amending the founding regulation of the Agency (Regulation (EC) No 1922/2006), in order to expand the composition of the Management Board to all Member States, to establish an Executive Board, and to replace the Experts' Forum with an advisory body, such as a scientific committee – changes that are in line with the Common Approach on Decentralised Agencies. The Commission is duly considering this request, taking into consideration the advantages of aligning the founding regulation to the Common Approach, on the one hand, and the possible difficulties that could arise when opening up this regulation. The Commission starts the last year of its mandate, with a strong focus on its remaining commitments and on enforcement. In this context, it will be for the next College of Commissioners to take the appropriate decision.

Ms Esther van Dijk
Chair, Management Board of EIGE



Regarding EIGE's request for additional staff, we look at all agencies' staffing needs on an annual basis in the context of the budgetary procedure, taking into consideration both the Agency's needs and the availability of resources. As you know, there are constraints for all EU institutions, which are subject to a horizontal policy on stable staffing. Nevertheless, as mentioned before, the Commission proposed two additional contract agents in the draft budget for 2024, in order to strengthen gender mainstreaming and gender budgeting. It also proposed for the future additional staff that will carry out dedicated tasks in relation to the directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence, should this directive be adopted. We will continue to carefully assess the needs of the Agency, notably, on an annual basis and in the context of the annual budgetary procedure.

We thank again EIGE for its excellent work in the past years and we remain at your disposal should you have any questions. Amidst turbulent times, we managed to make progress on a significant number of gender equality legislative files during this mandate. We count on EIGE to continue assisting with high quality data and research to support evidence-based decision-making and policy implementation.

We look forward to continuing our good cooperation with the Agency and its Management Board, and you as new Chair of the Management Board.

Yours sincerely,

(e-signed)
Johannes Hahn

(e-signed)
Helena Dalli

