



EIGE  
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Registration No A/496

**HELENA DALLI**  
MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

**JOHANNES HAHN**  
MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 22 June 2023

Dear Ms Auvinen,

Thank you for your letter, in which you forwarded the second report on the external evaluation of the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), and the Management Board's recommendations based on that report.

We noted the key conclusions from the evaluation report. We were particularly pleased with the finding that EIGE is a well-functioning organisation that fulfils its mandate.

Regarding your recommendations to the Commission, we can convey the following remarks to the Management Board. Your first proposal was to allocate sufficient and adequate resources to the Agency. We note that the evaluation concluded that the resources allocated to the Institute - especially human resources - are too low, particularly in view of the increasing stakeholders' demands for technical support resulting from a growing interest in gender mainstreaming. The Commission proposes in the Draft Budget 2024 to grant two additional contract agent positions to EIGE. This proposal takes into account both EIGE's needs and also the availability of resources, notably the strict stable staffing policy applied across the board for all the EU institutions and bodies. We also underline that for the new additional tasks entrusted on EIGE through the Commission proposal on combating violence against women and domestic violence (COM(2022)105), we proposed to reinforce the Institute by 1 temporary agent and 2 contract agents as of the start of the activities in 2025 or 2026.

Ms Tanja Auvinen  
Chair, European Institute for Gender Equality



Your second proposal was to revise the composition of the Management Board. The Commission sees benefits to ensure a continuous involvement of all Member States in the management and work of EIGE, in line with the Common Approach on EU Decentralised Agencies. Indeed, having all Member States represented in the Board could improve the continuity of the work and expertise of this body, streamlining its decision-making processes and contributing to its efficiency. As you point out in the letter, different approaches could be taken to address the current gap. As amending EIGE's founding Regulation would require a delicate political decision following an extensive impact assessment and preparation, we would suggest, in order to ensure in the short-term that all Member States are duly informed about and involved in the work of EIGE, to look into the possibility of inviting Member States who are, at any given moment, not represented on the Board to virtually attend the Management Board meetings as observers.

Concerning your third proposal on the Expert's Forum, we fully support the conclusion that the composition, role and working methods of this body should be revised and improved. We look forward to receiving your suggestions on how such an improvement could be implemented.

In what concerns your fourth proposal on a risk assessment regarding a possible amendment of the founding regulation of the Agency, we take note of your suggestion and are available to contribute to any such assessment that you would undertake. As noted above, any decision to amend the Regulation would need to be taken by the Commission following a thorough impact assessment and preparation.

With regard to your proposals addressed to EIGE, we fully support the suggestion for the Agency to look for options to better respond to stakeholders' requests, particularly requests for technical assistance aimed at reinforcing capacity in the area of gender mainstreaming. We also see an advantage in the Agency being more actively involved in various policy areas, in order to promote gender mainstreaming across a broad range of policies, taking into account resource constraints and the need to prioritise in line with the EU's political priorities on gender equality. Concerning your recommendation for the Agency to develop an organisational strategy to strengthen the intersectional approach, we note that EIGE already systematically applies this approach to its work, which is very welcome and in line with the EU Gender Equality Strategy's horizontal priority on intersectionality. We would invite more details on what an organisational strategy on intersectionality would entail, beyond EIGE's existing efforts and taking into account the need to focus limited resources within its core mandate.

The Commission takes this opportunity to thank EIGE for its excellent work over the past years.

We remain at your disposal for future exchanges, and we welcome any additional concrete recommendations you may have after your further discussions on this subject.

Yours sincerely,

(e-signed)  
Helena Dalli

(e-signed)  
Johannes Hahn