



To: MEPs of the FEMM Committee

Subject: FEMM vote on A revamped Long-term Budget for the Union in a Changing World

Dear Member of the FEMM committee,

On 9/10 April, you will vote on the opinion to the BUDG INI report on *A Revamped Long-term Budget for the Union in a changing world*, the EU's next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF).

The Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) is an [alliance of 80+ member organisations](#) working for better health through a healthier environment. Protecting the health of women and girls against environmental and climate threats has been at the core of HEAL's work for over two decades.

The health of women and girls in the EU is threatened like never before from the [triple crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution](#). The body of evidence on how women and girls are particularly at risk due to differences in exposure, socio-economic status, and vulnerability across their lifetime has steadily increased.

- [Climate change leads to negative pregnancy outcomes, including stillbirth.](#)
- During the 2023 summer heat wave in Europe, the [heat mortality was 55% higher for women.](#)
- [Air pollution increases the risk of preterm birth and low birthweight](#)
- Women are also disproportionately affected by chemicals pollution, including from chemicals which interfere with the body's hormone system (endocrine disruptors), [increasing the risk of breast cancer and fertility problems.](#)

Against this background, HEAL considers it crucial that the next EU MFF paves the way for reducing the substantial economic cost of pollution, as well as for increasing investments to protect women's and girl's health against the triple crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

Your position as a FEMM member is key to set the EU on the path towards swifter health-protective action. The post-2027 MFF needs to have health protection from climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution at its core.

For the post-2027 MFF, HEAL urges you to support

1. Investments in better health, not pollution, while promoting equity

Please support the earmarking at least 10% for zero pollution objectives, with robust tracking. Zero pollution objectives should be integrated across the board in all post-2027 MFF's spending programmes, together with climate, biodiversity, and health objectives.



Financing should also be allocated to prevent and reduce air pollution, which would be especially beneficial for women and girls' health.

We call on you to support the allocation of specific funding to strengthen preparedness for vulnerable groups and help to reduce socio-economic inequalities. Women, particularly those from low-income communities, pregnant women, and caregivers, will especially benefit, as they face heightened health risks due to climate-exacerbated pollution.

In addition, dedicated funding for advancing science and research on the health and economic burden of pollution, climate change and biodiversity loss should be supported. Despite growing concern, significant data gaps remain in understanding the full extent of pollution's impact on women's health—including links to infertility, and chronic conditions.

2. Setting strong conditions for healthy and zero pollution investments

Please support the application of health impact assessments, ensuring that the next MFF reduces environmental and climate health burdens that disproportionately affect women, enhancing societal resilience and preparedness across all programmes.

We also call on you to increase funding for regulatory agencies to strengthen public health and climate resilience, essential to address gender-specific health risks, such as climate-related health impacts from heat stress or respiratory illness. Dedicated support should be provided to Member States to develop comprehensive health action plans for climate adaptation and mitigation.

3. Swift phase out of EU subsidies for fossil fuels

Please support the phase out of direct and indirect EU funding for fossil fuels in the energy sector by 2027 and all environmental harmful subsidies. Funding should be redirected towards pollution reduction and climate resilience, as well as the allocation of dedicated funding to remediate PFAS-contaminated sites.

HEAL is available to provide any further information to support you in creating a healthier future for women and girls.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Stauffer
Deputy Director
Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL)
