

**Question for written answer E-001911/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Cecilia Wikström (ALDE)

Subject: Member States' ratification of the 1954 and 1961 UN conventions on the Status of Stateless Persons and Reduction of Statelessness

Implementation of the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons gives stateless individuals the chance to enjoy their basic human rights. The 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness ensures that new cases of statelessness are avoided. In the past four years, 33 countries in the world acceded to one or both UN Statelessness Conventions. In September 2012 the EU announced, on the occasion of the high-level meeting on the Rule of Law in New York, that the Member States which had not yet done so should pledge to address the issue of statelessness by ratifying the 1954 UN Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and by considering the ratification of the 1961 UN Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. Since then, only Belgium and Lithuania have acceded to the 1961 convention.

What has the Commission done, and what does it plan to do, to encourage the four Member States that have not yet done so (Cyprus, Estonia, Malta and Poland) to accede to the 1954 convention, and to encourage the ten Member States that have not yet done so (Cyprus, Estonia, France, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Slovenia and Spain) to accede to the 1961 convention?