

**Question for written answer E-002369/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Recognition of the effects of civil status documents throughout the EU

The EU has set itself the objective of developing an area of freedom, security and justice by adopting measures relating to the cross-border implications of national laws, such as the Rome III Regulation regarding the law applicable to divorce and legal separation. However, there is no EU-wide legislation regulating the recognition of civil status documents, including marriages and registered partnerships, despite plans, outlined by the previous Commission, to introduce such legislation in the framework of the Stockholm Programme.

Same-sex couples face difficulties when their marriages or civil partnerships are not recognised in Member States where no such legislation exists. In such situations they are denied the rights and benefits granted opposite-sex couples joined in the same types of union, severely hampering their freedom of movement.

1. What is the Commission's view on this matter?
2. What will the Commission do to ensure the recognition of the effects of civil status documents, including marriages and registered partnerships, throughout the EU?
3. What measures has the Commission taken to resolve issues stemming from differences in the status of partnership affecting its own employees (such as the need for Commission employees in Luxembourg to 'upgrade' their civil partnerships to marriages as a result of the marriage equality act that entered into force on 1 January 2015)?