

**Question for written answer E-003550/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Barbara Matera (PPE)

Subject: Persistent situation of violence against women in Turkey

On 13 February a young Turkish student, Özgecan Aslan, 20, was raped, beaten, murdered and then burnt by the driver of a minibus, when she was the last passenger left on board.

This episode has triggered the anger of thousands of people throughout the country.

A few days after the incident, the President of the Turkish Republic, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, far from standing up for the need to tackle the persistent situation of violence against women, and promote gender equality in the country, stated, 'God placed women in the hands of men'.

According to the media, since 2002, when the Islamist party took the leadership in Turkey, violence against women in Turkey has increased by 1 400 %.

In 2012, the government, led at the time by Erdoğan, approved a law ensuring protection to women against all forms of violence.

However, the data show that up to now this legislative measure has not been able to fulfil its purpose.

In view of the above, can the Commission make known:

- whether, and how, she intends to bring pressure to bear on the Turkish Government to introduce a less deficient legislative measure, which is truly able to provide adequate protection to Turkish women;
- in more general terms, how she intends to act in relation to the objective of ensuring greater gender equality within the country?