

**Question for written answer E-003804/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Ratification of the Istanbul Convention

The Istanbul Convention is the first legally binding European instrument created with a view to preventing and combating all forms of violence against women and girls, including domestic violence. It was adopted in Istanbul by all 47 Council of Europe member states on 11 May 2011 and entered into force on 1 August 2014. To date, only nine EU Member States have ratified the convention: Austria, Denmark, France, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden. Furthermore, some countries are moving in the opposite direction, as is the case for Hungary, which has blocked the topic from its parliamentary agenda¹.

Bearing in mind that the Commission and the current Latvian Presidency of the Council of the EU have committed to actively encouraging all EU Member States and the European Union itself (in accordance with Article 75(1) of the Istanbul Convention and Article 216 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union) to sign and ratify the convention, the Commission is asked to answer the following:

- What action is it taking to promote legislative harmonisation through the signing and ratification of the convention by the Member States and by the EU itself?
- On what date does the Commission, mandated by the Council, plan to sign and ratify the convention on behalf of the EU?

¹ http://www.parlament.hu/hu/szavazasok-adott-idoszakban?p_auth=YumDxLBW&p_p_id=pairproxy_WAR_pairproxyportlet_INSTANCE_9xd2Wc9jP4z8&p_p_lifecycle=1&p_p_state=normal&p_p_mode=view&p_p_col_id=column-1&p_p_col_count=1&pairproxy_WAR_pairproxyportlet_INSTANCE_9xd2Wc9jP4z8_pairAction=%2Finterne%2Fcpisq%2Fogy_szav.szav_irom%3FP_DATUM_IG%3D2015.03.03%26P_DATUM_TOL%3D2015.03.03%26P_CKL%3D40