

**Question for written answer E-004616/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Hugues Bayet (S&D)**

Subject: Violence against women in Turkey

On 27 February 2015 the French weekly newspaper, Courrier International, published an article headed 'Turkey: wave of violence against women.' It reports the attempted rape followed by the barbaric murder of the student Özgecan Aslan, who was just 20 years old.

The article reports that, in January alone, 26 women were murdered in Turkey, and that murders of women rose by 31 % from 2013 to 2014. It adds, 'experts state that the male composition of most courts, and lax legislation, encourage attacks on women [...] Researchers have discovered several reasons why a man could get off with a reduced sentence in the case of rape or murder of a woman. This lenience may come into play when the aggressor pleads that the victim "was wearing jeans, was going home late at night, or was carrying contraceptive pills in her handbag.'" The NGO Human Rights Watch records similar findings.

These facts are utterly intolerable.

Turkey is the first country to have ratified the Istanbul Convention on preventing and combating violence against women.

Turkey is a candidate for accession.

What is the Commission's view?