

Question for written answer E-011159/2015
to the Council
Rule 130
Viviane Reding (PPE)

Subject: Gender balance in the European Economic and Social Committee

The Members of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) will be appointed for a new five-year mandate in October 2015. The appointment procedure based on Article 302 TFEU leaves it to the Member States to define the profiles needed in their territories to properly represent them within the EESC. The proportion of women Members of this institution currently stands at 23 %, which is particularly low and does not reflect the composition of European society.

1. Is the Council engaged in attaining a balanced presence of men and women in all the EU institutions?
2. Is the Council considering the possibility of recommending that the Member States take gender balance into account when submitting their lists of proposed new members of the EESC?
3. What other instruments does the Council have at its disposal to improve the gender balance in the EESC?