

**Question for written answer E-011333/2015
to the Council**
Rule 130
Anna Hedh (S&D)

Subject: Ratification of the Istanbul Convention

The Istanbul Convention has been ratified by 18 countries since 2011. Violence against women is one of the EU's most serious security problems, so implementation of the convention needs to be sped up, as the European Parliament has pointed out. Violence against women is a long-standing manifestation of the unequal power relationship between men and women which is being allowed to continue owing to a number of factors, including an absence of legislation and the structural reproduction of repression.

1. The Council bears considerable responsibility as regards how EU Member States act and the signal that is sent out to the national parliaments. During its presidency, what will Luxembourg do to ensure that more Member States ratify the Istanbul Convention?
2. The post-2015 gender equality strategy explicitly refers to violence by men against women, as do a number of other resolutions. Like the Anti-Discrimination Directive, these are often blocked in the Council. What is your strategy for breaking the deadlock on issues relating to violence by men against women?
3. Now that the European Parliament has clearly expressed its support for action being taken to combat violence by men against women, it is up to the Commission and the Council to take action. One in three women over the age of 15 has experienced physical and/or sexual violence, and 22% have suffered violence at the hands of a partner, which ought to provide yet another incentive for decisive action to be taken. As the country currently holding the EU presidency, what obstacles do you see standing in the way of a swifter ratification of the Istanbul Convention?