

**Question for written answer E-011392/2015  
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Barbara Matera (PPE)**

Subject: VP/HR - Court in Afghanistan overturned death sentences for men convicted of killing a woman

On Thursday, 2 July 2015, a court in Afghanistan overturned the death sentences for four men convicted of taking part in the mob killing of a woman outside a Kabul shrine.

The woman was falsely accused of burning a Quran.

The hearing of the case was held behind closed doors and the family of the victim was not allowed to have legal representation during the case and had not been directly informed of the change in sentencing.

Charges against 18 men were dropped for lack of evidence, and eight others were sentenced to 16 years in prison. Of 19 policemen charged with dereliction of duty, eight were acquitted due to lack of evidence, and 11 were sentenced to one year in prison.

1. What steps is the EU taking to request the enforcement of the laws in Afghanistan with regard to the protection of women and the reform of the country's judicial system?
2. Does the EU see a move by the Afghan Government towards more radical positions in an attempt to satisfy the voices of radical clerics and the Taliban?
3. What percentage of EU funds is dedicated specifically to the protection of women in Afghanistan?