

**Question for written answer E-014337/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Patricija Šulin (PPE)

Subject: Better prevention and bilateral cooperation in the area of sexual violence (rape)

Figures show that one in 10 women in the EU have been victims of sexual violence, and half of those women were raped. Furthermore, a large percentage of victims do not report the crime because they may have a poor recollection of it (where a rape drug was used) or because they are afraid of the reactions of people around them. Despite the rise in sexual violence and the consequences it has, too little is still being done to prevent it, to raise awareness and to provide help to victims without stigmatising them further. Police and prosecutors encounter numerous obstacles when investigating rapes because in many cases there is insufficient material evidence. And an investigation becomes even more difficult if the suspect moves to another Member State.

1. What preventive activities does the Commission carry out in this area?
2. Does the Commission agree that more effectively incorporating these issues into school teaching programmes and providing free self-defence courses for women of all ages could help to reduce sexual violence? Is the Commission planning any activities in this area?
3. If the suspect moves to another Member State the judicial procedures can be lengthy and it can be difficult to bring a perpetrator to court. What can the Commission do, and what does it intend to do, to ensure that in the case of sexual violence the suspect is extradited as quickly as possible to the country where the crime was committed?