

**Question for written answer E-001233/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Violence against women

A third of all women in the EU have suffered some type of physical or sexual violence. Around 5% of them have been raped. In Spain, 109 women were killed by men in 2015, and 11 have already been killed so far in 2016.

More than 30 000 women are victims of sex trafficking in the EU, including 5 000 girls. This all goes to show that misogynist violence is a structural problem in the Union.

Incidents such as those in Cologne show that gender violence is a major problem that does not leave room for bureaucratic delays. There is an urgent need to move from concern to action.

Will the Commission reconsider its decision to downgrade the Strategy for equality between women and men to a mere working document for the Commission services and submit a gender equality strategy for the period 2016-2020, as called for by the European Parliament, the European Council and the Presidency Trio, that will have a budget, objectives, measurement indicators and ex post evaluation?

Going beyond encouraging the Member States to ratify the Istanbul Convention, is the Commission considering the possibility of proposing a directive on the subject of gender violence?