

Question for written answer E-004217/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Franz Obermayr (ENF)

Subject: Forced marriages: drastic increase in the number of child marriages among refugees

According to media reports, and as UNICEF has also warned, the number of girls being forced into marriage in Africa will rise from 125 million at present to 310 million by 2050. To make matters worse, forced marriages in refugee camps are among the tragic side-effects of the conflict in Syria. The number of child marriages among Syrian refugees is rising rapidly. Before the beginning of hostilities, 13% of Syrian girls were under 18 at the time of their marriage. In the first quarter of 2014, according to UNICEF, one in three girls were marrying in childhood or early youth, and this figure looks set to rise.

Since forced marriages in Europe cannot be ruled out, I would like to ask the following questions:

1. What is the Commission's view of forced marriages among migrants in Europe?
2. What is the Commission's estimate of the frequency of forced marriages in the EU?
3. In the Commission's view, are forced marriages compatible with the values of the EU as reflected in many official documents, including the Charter of Fundamental Rights?