

**Question for written answer E-004931/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Combating child marriage among asylum seekers

A number of Member States have observed a worrying upsurge in child marriages among asylum seekers.

As I mentioned in written question E-001014-16, non-governmental organisations have warned that this is occurring with the approval of the child's parents as a means of escaping poverty – as dowries can reach USD 4 000 – and of protecting girl refugees against sexual violence.

Some Member States have changed their penal codes to classify forced marriage as a crime. Germany is currently considering whether to refuse to recognise such marriages, as is already the case in Sweden.

Given that preventing child marriage is a priority for the EU under the Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2015-2019 and that the Commission has begun the process of EU accession to the Istanbul Convention, pursuant to which the States Party must adopt legislative or other measures to eradicate child marriage, protect victims and make it easier to annul such marriages, including with regard to asylum seekers:

1. What measures will the Commission take to ensure that the provisions on underage marriage set out in the Istanbul Convention are upheld in Member States?
2. What preventive measures will it take to raise awareness in refugee camps of the risks of child marriage and to avoid such risks?