

Question for written answer E-005911/2016
to the Council
Rule 130
Beatrix von Storch (EFDD)

Subject: Istanbul Convention: lack of democratic legitimacy for EU accession

The Commission has proposed EU accession to the international Convention to fight violence against women. It raises many problems, in particular as regards the democratic legitimacy of the Commission to propose this accession.

14 Member States have not ratified the Istanbul Convention: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Slovakia and the UK. And while the Istanbul Convention is not in force in 50 % of the Member States, the Commission wants to sign the EU's accession to it.

If the people of half of the Member States of the EU had been convinced of the urgency and need to ratify the Istanbul Convention, it would have been done already. However, it has not been ratified, and for many valid reasons.

Is the Council aware that the Commission is bypassing Member States in a very sensitive policy area which affects the respect of legal traditions, values and traditions of the Member States?

What measures is the Council considering in order to stop the Commission from signing the EU's accession to the Istanbul Convention until all 28 EU Member States have ratified this instrument in internal law?