

Question for written answer E-005914/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Beatrix von Storch (EFDD)

Subject: Istanbul Convention: conflict with Article 4(2) of Treaty on European Union

The Commission has proposed EU accession to the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. This raises many problems, in particular a conflict with regard to respecting Member States' diversity.

The Convention has an extremely broad approach that goes well beyond stopping violence. The comprehensive nature of the treaty is undoubtedly intended to be used as a tool for social engineering of values and norms on all matters pertaining to social life. Moreover, the EU would be obliged to 'promote changes in the social and cultural patterns of behaviour of women and men with a view to eradicating prejudices, customs and traditions.' (Article 12(5)). The EU would then be exposed to a more aggressive attempt to bring changes to culture, traditions and religions, as well as to the Member States' civil and criminal laws through the Convention text and the unelected monitoring committee.

Is the Commission aware of the undemocratic nature of the Convention's monitoring committee?

By what means will the Commission avoid a conflict with its obligation to respect the cultural diversity and national traditions of the Member States in accordance with to Article 4(2) of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) when implementing the Istanbul Convention?