

**Question for written answer E-008795/2016
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 130
Doru-Claudian Frunzuliță (S&D)

Subject: VP/HR - Kyrgyzstan

On Friday, 18 November 2016, Kyrgyzstan's President Almazbek Atambayev took an important step in the fight against child marriage by signing a new law introducing criminal sanctions, including imprisonment, for people who conduct or facilitate religious marriages of children under 18.

This is a crucial step, but one that addresses only one aspect of the problem. Abduction for forced marriage – so-called 'bride kidnapping' – is an ongoing problem in Kyrgyzstan, putting both girls and adult women at risk. Agencies estimate that close to 12 000 women and girls are abducted for marriage annually.

Is the VP/HR going to have talks with the Government of Kyrgyzstan in order to put an end to this practice?