

**Question for written answer E-004887/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Effective measures to combat sexual exploitation

Recently, in a joint operation coordinated through Europol and Eurojust, officers from the Spanish national police and the Bulgarian police broke up a criminal organisation which had been operating in both countries and had been exploiting women and girls for sexual purposes.

This is an example of effective cooperation between Member States assisted by EU agencies. Figures published by the Commission in 2016, however, highlight an increase in the number of victims of human trafficking, which mainly affects women (76%) and girls (21%).

Given the scale of this problem, the EU legislation in force (Directive 2011/36/EU) and the fact that the eradication of human trafficking is a priority laid down in the European Agenda on Migration and the European Agenda on Security, I would like to put the following questions to the Commission:

1. As the last EU strategy on the eradication of human trafficking covered only the period to 2016, and in the light of the considerations outlined by Commissioner Avramopoulos in his answer to Question O-000024/2017, how does the Commission assess the progress made in this area? When does it plan to draw up a new strategy?
2. Given that human trafficking is a transnational phenomenon, what practical steps can be taken to enhance cooperation between the Member States and the role played by Europol and Eurojust?