

**Question for written answer E-007542/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Francisco Assis (S&D)

Subject: Sale of young women in Afghanistan

According to a report published on 29 November 2017 in the Spanish newspaper *El Mundo*, in Afghanistan, dozens of girls are sold every day at auctions, for derisory sums, to older men for them to wed. The dozens of individuals running that cruel trade take advantage of the abject poverty that the families of the young women find themselves in. Practices of that kind are a flagrant and unacceptable infringement of human rights which no cultural or tribal theory can excuse.

Given that, collectively, the European Union is now Afghanistan's main provider of development aid, having sent it EUR 5 billion from a total of EUR 13.6 billion for the period 2017-2020, and that, according to NGOs such as Human Rights Watch, the Afghan Government is not interested in facing up to this tragedy, how will the EU get the Afghan authorities implementing the National Action Plan for Women established in 2007 – and with the power to take measures – to tackle that completely intolerable situation?