

**Question for written answer E-001202/2018
to the Commission
Rule 130
Liliana Rodrigues (S&D)**

Subject: Widows in Afghanistan

In four decades of continuous conflict, Afghanistan has become a country of war widows. Although there are no official statistics on the number of women who have lost their husbands to the conflicts, it is estimated that there are approximately 2.5 million widows in Afghanistan.

Early marriage is common place in rural areas – and even in some cities – in Afghanistan. This means that, on average, an Afghan widow is only 35 years old. The death of a husband hits these young women doubly hard. Unaware of their rights and stigmatised by tradition and society, they are left to a life of poverty and solitude.

Does the Commission plan to provide any type of support to these women, in particular through its European External Action Service (EEAS) and Delegation of the European Union to Afghanistan, and to include such support in the scope of action of the Gender Action Plan II?