

**Question for written answer E-003221/2018  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Dominique Martin (ENF)**

Subject: 1 man, 4 wives, 46 children: a normal family in the new Europe

The number of polygamous households in France is estimated to be between 10 000 and 30 000: a total of some 200 000 people<sup>1, 2</sup>. The abuse of benefits costs around EUR 300 million per year. Tolerance of polygamy contradicts EU legislation on family reunification<sup>3</sup>. On 29 May 2018, however, Germany's Federal Administrative Court ruled that a second marriage entered into abroad is no barrier to seeking naturalisation under German law (Article 10 of the Law on Nationality - StAG).<sup>4</sup>

1. Will the Commission take Germany to the Court of Justice for its infringement of EU law (Directive 2003/86/EC on the right to family reunification)?
2. What is the Commission's assessment of the implementation of Directive 2003/86/EC in respect of polygamy and its impact on social policy (employment, housing, benefits)?
3. What is the Commission's estimate of the number of polygamous households in the EU?

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.cncdh.fr/sites/default/files/rapportpolygamie.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.lejdd.fr/Societe/Polygamie-Hortefeux-Lies-Hebbadj-199813-3102134>

<sup>3</sup> Article 4(4) of Directive 2003/86/EC lays down that, in the event of a polygamous marriage, where the sponsor already has a spouse living with him in the territory of a Member State, the Member State concerned shall not authorise the family reunification of a further spouse. It also states that Member States can limit the family reunification of minor children of a further spouse and the sponsor. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32003L0086&from=en>

<sup>4</sup> The authorities and lower courts had, up to this point, ruled that polygamy was incompatible with the liberal democratic legal order due to the civil law principle of monogamy <https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polygamie>