

**Question for written answer E-006185/2018
to the Commission
Rule 130
Adam Szejnfeld (PPE)**

Subject: The European Union on the tragic situation of women in many countries of the world

Every year on 25 November, we celebrate the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. Furthermore, this year we are celebrating the 100th anniversary of women gaining their electoral rights in many EU countries. However, the situation of women is still totally unacceptable in various parts of the world. They are treated like objects, even as the property of men, who decide whether the women in their families can study, work, leave their country or even leave their homes. In addition, the epidemic of gender-based violence is spreading. In many countries, women are starved, beaten, raped, mutilated, attacked with acid, set on fire and even killed. The problem affects various regions, often undemocratic countries in the Middle East and Africa, but also countries that are democracies such as India, Brazil and Mexico. Such vile acts occur regardless of religion, both in Islamic countries and Catholic societies, for example.

The European Union maintains political and economic relations with all these countries, even providing many of them with financial assistance. European taxpayers contribute hundreds of billions of euros to support governments in these countries, while they do little to put an end to medieval superstitions, backward traditions and inhumane practices.

In this connection, how does the Commission intend to bring an end to these disgraceful practices against women in countries with which we have diplomatic and economic relations?