

**Question for oral answer O-000083/2013
to the Council**

Rule 115

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Subject: Convention on preventing and combating violence against women (Istanbul Convention): state of play and actions to be taken

The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) was opened for signature in Istanbul on 11 May 2011. It is the first European legal instrument to create a comprehensive legislative framework to protect women against all forms of violence. It is important to note that the Convention does not only apply to women. Parties to the Convention are also encouraged to apply its protective framework to children, men and elderly people who are exposed to domestic violence.

The Convention will enter into force when it has been ratified by 10 countries, 8 of which must be Council of Europe member states. At present, it has been signed by 26 states and ratified by 5 (of which just 2 are EU Member States).

Given that the fight against all forms of violence against women and girls is one of the EU's priorities, could the Council state:

- what steps or measures could be taken in order to speed up signature and ratification by EU Member States, as well as by the European Union itself;
- what measures could be implemented to introduce the 'six-P' framework on violence against women (policy, prevention, protection, prosecution, provision and partnership), which the European Parliament has called for on a number of occasions;

- what measures could be taken with a view to developing effective and consistent initiatives to support Member States in eradicating violence against women, and in establishing networks and communication between national authorities to ensure that progress is made in this area.

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