

Question for written answer P-009722/2014
to the Council
Rule 130
Alessia Maria Mosca (S&D)

Subject: Commission proposal concerning the presence of women on the boards of EU companies

Exactly one year ago the European Parliament adopted, by a large majority, the legislative proposal of the Commission to improve the gender balance on the boards of directors of EU companies. Parliament thus caused the first cracks in the so-called glass ceiling, which still continues to exclude women from senior management positions of responsibility. It is now up to the Council, where the proposal has been at a standstill for nearly a year, also because at least ten Member States have long publicised their opposition to the idea.

Now is the time for Europe to give itself a set of strong rules to combat the gender imbalance on company boards. Can the Council therefore say:

1. what the latest developments are in the discussions on the proposal in question, specifying which Member States are the most reluctant to accept the proposal as drafted and which issues are causing the greatest debate, discussion and conflict;
2. whether it is not perhaps necessary to take new measures to revive the discussions, in order to put the topic back at the centre of the institutional agenda and public opinion, given that it is now up to the EU governments to meet the challenge set by Parliament and the Commission and to work swiftly on this legislative draft designed to recognise the true value of qualifications and merit?